FRIDAY
January 13, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

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JD(U) VETERAN EXITS

Socialist stalwart Sharad Yadav no more

NEWS » PAGE 10

PENALTY TIME

Neelakurinji a protected species now

SOUTH » PAGE 7

SHAKEN HILLS

Demolition of hotels begins in Joshimath

NEWS » PAGE 12

PARLEY

Expectations from the Union Budget

Will it be populist or fiscally responsible?

OPINION » PAGE 9

GRAND PRIZE AWAITS

India to take on Spain in Hockey World Cup

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

Guidelines for metro work revised

BENGALURU
In the line of fire, the BMRCL is all set to issue fresh guidelines mandating a two-stage reinforcement and concretising during construction of metro pillars to avoid accidents.
» Page 3

State's proposed R-Day tableau shortlisted

BENGALURU
The Centre on Thursday shortlisted the tableau of the Karnataka government for participation in the Republic Day parade in the national capital » Page 6

Infosys Q3 net rises 13% to ₹6,586 crore

BENGALURU
Infosys on Thursday raised its full-year revenue guidance after reporting a 13.4% jump in third-quarter net profit to ₹6,586 crore. » Page 14

METROPLUS » PAGE 5

World is in crisis and it's not clear how long it will last, says Modi

Global south does not have an adequate voice in global governance, says PM and promises that India will amplify it during G-20 presidency

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The world is facing a lasting crisis and there is no clarity about how long this "state of instability" will last, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, inaugurating the Voice of the Global South Summit.

The global south does not have an adequate voice in the "eight-decade-old model of global governance" and it should shape the "emerging order, Mr. Modi said, adding that the countries of the global south would drive the world economy in the 21st century.

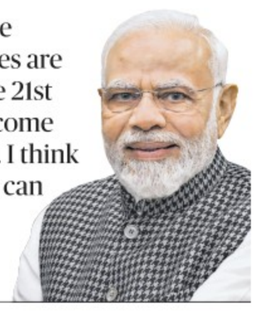
"Most of the global challenges have not been created by the global south. But they affect us more. We have seen this in the impact of the COVID pandemic, climate change, terrorism and even the Ukraine conflict. The search for solutions also does not factor in our role or our voice," the Prime Minister said, addressing the two-day virtual summit that saw participation from Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, and the leaders of a number of other countries, including Vietnam.

Mr. Modi said India's 2023 goal was to represent the global south, assuring them that "...your voice is India's voice. Your priorities are India's priorities."

"As India begins its G-20 presidency this year, it is natural, our aim is to amplify the voice of the global south," he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

> Today, most of these advanced economies are slowing down. Clearly, in the 21st century, global growth will come from countries of the south. I think that if we work together, we can set the global agenda
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister



Finance Minister sounds caution on global recession

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rising global debt vulnerabilities could trigger a worldwide recession and push millions into poverty, if left unaddressed, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the summit.

World leaders must also focus on social dimensions of development to tackle pressing challenges like inequality and learning losses, she said.

Vegetable prices help cool inflation

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

A steep 15.1% fall in vegetable prices in December 2022 drove down India's retail inflation to a 12-month low of 5.72% – keeping it below the central bank's 6% tolerance threshold for the second straight month after a ten-month streak above it.

There was, however, little relief beyond vegetables as inflation in food items such as cereals, milk, spices accelerated further to 13.8%, 8.5% and 20.3%, respectively. For rural consumers, inflation remained high at 6.05%, with food prices rising over 5%, compared to just 2.8% in urban India.

"Excluding vegetables, retail inflation actually rose to 7.2% in December from 7% in November – led by rising prices of cereals, pulses, milk, meat and fish, and fuel," said Crisil chief economist Dharmakirti Joshi.

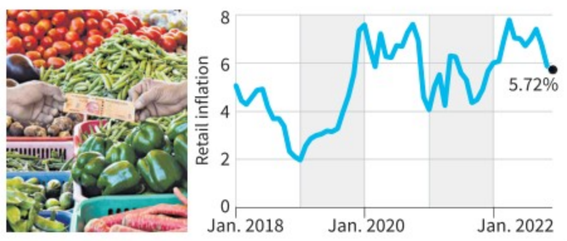
Core inflation, which excludes food and energy, also hardened to 6.1% from 6% in November, which Mr. Joshi termed the "biggest worry".

Among services, inflation remained high for personal care and effects (8.1%), household goods and services (7.43%), miscellaneous and health services (6.1%).

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Price gains ease

India's annual retail inflation slowed to 5.72% in December, remaining below Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit of 6% for the second consecutive month



Sinkhole appears on Brigade Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A motorist lost his balance and fell when a sinkhole appeared near Shoolay Circle on Brigade Road on Thursday afternoon. Movement of vehicles in the central business district (CBD) was also disrupted.

The two-wheeler rider, identified as Puneeth, suffered minor injuries. He was fortunate that other vehicles did not run over him. Puneeth received treatment at a private hospital and was discharged.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) blamed Namma Metro tunnelling work, which is under way below the road, for the sinkhole. The junction is along the Gottigere-Nagawara R6 underground Namma Metro line where tunnel boring machines are at work. This incident comes two days after the reinforcement of an underconstruction metro pillar fell on a two-wheeler, killing a mother-son duo, on Outer Ring Road.

"Underground tunnelling work below the road caused the soil particles to loosen up, leading to a sinkhole. We have asked Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to fill up the sink hole," said Suguna Ramareddy, Chief Engineer, East zone, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

The BMRCL began filling up the sinkhole with concrete in the evening.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

A sinkhole appeared near Shoolay Circle on Brigade Road in Bengaluru on Thursday. Movement of vehicles in and around the central business district was disrupted. K. MURALI KUMAR

Modi does an impromptu roadshow in Hubballi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the crowd during the roadshow in Hubballi on Thursday.
KIRAN BAKALE

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was in Hubballi to inaugurate the 26th National Youth Festival (NYF) as Karnataka entered the Assembly election year, held a roadshow that was not on the cards as per the schedule, with thousands lining up on either side of the road to greet him.

Mr. Modi is expected to visit another North Karnataka town, the historical Malkhed in Sedam taluk of Kalaburagi on January 19 for distributing land rights to residents of tandas (Lambani hamlets).

On Thursday in Hubballi, Mr. Modi stood on the footboard of the vehicle he was travelling in for most part of the way from the Airport to Railway Grounds, the venue of NYF. BJP functionaries said that they had requested for a few stops at a few junctions, but it eventually turned out to be a roadshow. The entire route of the convoy had been cordoned off and around 2,500 police personnel had been deployed.

No breach of security

The police were taken by surprise at one point when an enthusiastic boy, aged around 10, jumped the security cordon and ran towards the Prime Minister in an effort to garland him. While the SPG and local police personnel desperately tried to intercept him, the Prime MInister took the garland and handed it over to the SPG.

Speaking to presspersons, Police Commissioner Raman Gupta termed the incident as "not a breach of security".

"It appears that the boy had jumped the barricade and tried to garland the Prime Minister out of sheer enthusiasm. However, we are enquiring into the issue and will take suitable action," he said.

According to reliable sources, the boy's parents were summoned to the police station for inquiry.

ANOTHER REPORT » PAGE 6

Ex-Finance Secretary booked in graft case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a corruption case against former Finance Secretary Arvind Mayaram, besides unknown officials of the Finance Ministry, the RBI and De La Rue International Ltd. (the U.K.).

The allegations pertain to a contract for supply of exclusive colour shift security thread for Indian currency notes.

On Thursday, the agency conducted searches on the premises of the accused in Delhi and Rajasthan.

According to the first information report (FIR), the CBI received a complaint from the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) on February 14, 2017, on the basis of which it launched a preliminary enquiry.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Southeast division night beat policemen to wear bodycam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 50 night beat policemen attached to Southeast division will be equipped with body cameras as another step towards an image makeover and to bring transparency in their service.

Documentary evidence

The policemen on duty have been asked to switch on the cameras throughout duty hours and record whenever they question or talk to people. The recording would gather evidence for any eventuality, and also provide documentary evidence in case of any dispute.

"This is to ensure accountability and bring in transparency as the policemen on duty, besides work pressure, have to suffer allegations at numerous levels. This much needed technology would help resolve disputes from all levels and be a better defence for the policemen," C.K. Baba, DCP, Southeast division said.

A policeman using a body camera while on night duty in Bengaluru.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Panchamasali reservation row: HC directs govt. to maintain status quo on interim report of BC panel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka directed the State government to maintain status quo, as of Thursday, on the interim report of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes (KSCBC) with regard to the demand for inclusion of Panchamasali Lingayat sub-sect in Category 2A of the caste-based reservation list.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi, passed the interim order while hearing a PIL petition filed by Raghavendra D.G. of Bengaluru.

Ad hoc procedure

It was contended in the petition that in terms of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1995, the concept of "interim report" did not find mention in the statutory scheme, and hence, the ad hoc procedure now sought to be followed to notify sub-sect of Veerashaiva-Lingayat community in Category 2A was impermissible in law.

The petitioner also pointed out that in the year

Petitioner pointed out that in 2000, KSCBC had rejected the claims by certain sub-groups of Lingayats for their inclusion in Category 2A

2000, KSCBC had rejected the claims by certain sub-groups of Lingayats for their inclusion in Category 2A.

Rejected in 2000

The commission in 2000 had told the government that "all sub-groups of Veerashaiva enumerated under Sl. No.1 (b) Category 3B as well as other sub-groups of Lingayats are entitled to the benefit of reservation under Articles 15 (4) and 16 (4) of the Constitution under the list of backward classes published in the Government Order dated April, 17, 1994, only under Category 3B and under no other category. Therefore, the complaints made to the contrary and against non-issue of caste certificates of Lingayat Veerashaiva sub-groups under categories 1, 2A and 3A have no merit and they are hereby rejected," the petitioner stated.

During the earlier hearing on the petition, the court had made it clear that in the process of taking any decision, there must be strict compliance of the scheme envisaged under the KSCBC Act, 1995.

Next hearing

As the Advocate-General on Thursday told the court that the government would place the interim report of the commission before the court during next date of hearing, the Bench passed the interim order of status quo while adjourning further hearing till January 30.

CMYK M BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Market borrowings of the Central and State governments

14.8 In rupees lakh crore, the likely gross market borrowings of the Central government and State governments in the next financial year, according to ICRA ratings. The agency also said the Centre is expected to peg its FY24 fiscal deficit at 5.8% of the GDP, a healthy moderation from the 6.4% of GDP projected for FY23. PTI

Record rise in India's estimated wheat production in 2022-23

112 In million tonnes, India's estimated wheat production in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), likely to set a new record, according to Agriculture Ministry data. Wheat production had declined to 106.84 million tonnes due to heat waves in key growing States in the 2021-22 crop year. In 2020-21, the country had achieved a record wheat output of 109.59 million tonnes. PTI

Toys seized across India for lacking the BIS quality mark

18,600 The number of toys seized at airports and malls across India for lacking the quality mark of the Bureau of Indian Standards, and the use of fake licences last month by retail stores. The consumer protection regulator CCPA issued notices to major e-commerce players for violation of toys quality control order. PTI

Electric buses under FAME-II scheme to hit the streets

7,000 The number of electric buses under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase (FAME)-II scheme that will have hit the roads in cities of India by next year, according to a Heavy Industries Ministry official. Of all the electric buses under the scheme, over 3,000 e-buses are already operating.PTI

ASI discovers ancient stupas at Nalanda district in Patna

1,200 The age of the two stupas discovered by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) during landscaping activities near Sarai Tila mound within the premises of the 'Nalanda Mahavihara', a world heritage site in Nalanda in Patna. The stupas, carved from stone, depict Buddha figures. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Analysing the 'cheating' in chess

What is the controversy surrounding Magnus Carlsen and Hans Niemann? What is the role of AI and statistics in determining if a player has cheated in a game of chess? Is the analysis foolproof?

EXPLAINER

Atanu Biswas

The story so far:

The chess world was rattled in late 2022 when Magnus Carlsen, the current world champion, accused Hans Niemann, a 19-year-old U.S. chess grandmaster, of cheating using a chess-playing artificial intelligence (AI) system. Niemann had defeated Carlsen, prompting Carlsen's accusation; Niemann asserted that he had defeated Carlsen fairly even though he later admitted to having cheated twice in online chess games at the ages of 12 and 16.

A month later, a 72-page investigation report drafted by *Chess.com* claimed that Niemann had "likely cheated" more than a hundred times while playing online chess. But the report also said, "There is no direct evidence that proves Hans cheated at the September 4, 2022, game with Magnus."

Hans Niemann, right, has sued Magnus Carlsen, *Chess.com* and chess prodigy Hikaru Nakamura for $100 million for defamation. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

How can you tell when a player has cheated?

First, researchers build a statistical model using the database of millions of finished chess matches. Then they estimate the probability that a human player's move will coincide with a move made by a chess engine using the fitted model.

By feeding records of Niemann's games into chess engines, some experts discovered that Niemann had played a lengthy series of AI-recommended moves in tournament games and that his tactics were frequently similar to those of a computer. But some experts contended that the onboard movements in actual games of many players could resemble those of an AI, since human players' training, preparation, and practices are now affected by these engines as well.

The Carlsen-Niemann dispute may finally be decided in court: Niemann has sued Carlsen, *Chess.com* and chess prodigy Hikaru Nakamura, who also accused Niemann of cheating in online games, for $100 million for defamation.

How reliable is statistics?

An infamous criminal case from the U.K. involving a woman named Sally Clark is a prime example of how the use of false statistics resulted in an injustice.

Following the untimely deaths of two of her infant children from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) on separate occasions, Clark was accused of murder. A paediatrician said that the probability of a random SIDS death when the mother is older than 26, affluent, and a nonsmoker, is 1 in 8,543.

So the probability of two such deaths, the expert continued, was computed as 1/8,543^2, or 1 in 73 million. Clark was promptly convicted in 1999.

But the Royal Statistical Society disagreed and said there was "no statistical basis" for the paediatrician's figure. In fact, the paediatrician had committed the 'prosecutor's fallacy' by wrongly considering the two deaths to be independent. When Ray Hill, a mathematics professor at the University of Salford, examined additional data in 2002, he concluded that the chance of a second child dying of SIDS given that a first child had died of SIDS might be as high as only 1 in 60! Clark was thus released from jail in 2003.

Carlsen has expressed a belief that cheating is "an existential threat" to chess. It might be tempting, against this backdrop, to see the future of this 1,500-year-old game lying even in part in the hands of the Carlsen-Niemann case, specifically in the proper use of statistics and their interpretation. But there will be several ways to calculate and interpret them, just as the case itself can swing either way.

For example, according to analysis by an anonymous Chessbase user called gambit-man, Niemann has an unusually high number of games with near 100% engine correlation.

Niemann's defence might be that his play is far less computer-like than Carlsen's has been in the recent past.

There is a metric called centipawn loss: it measures how much worse a player's moves were compared to the engine's top choice. A lower value indicates a closer match to the engine's choice. There's another metric called depth: the number of forthcoming moves by a single player that a chess engine tries to predict. Compared to the open-source chess engine Stockfish (v. 15) at depth 18, Niemann's and Carlsen's centipawn loss scores are 25.6 and 16.9, respectively.

So who wins the argument?

It's hard to say. Perhaps we will never know for sure if Niemann really cheated because statistical analyses only suggest whether cheating may have occurred; they don't provide absolute verdicts. The only thing of which we can be reasonably certain is that whoever wins the case, an honest game of chess needn't hang in the balance – but not for the reasons Carlsen is concerned about.

Atanu Biswas is professor of statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

THE GIST

- Magnus Carlsen, the current world champion, accused Hans Niemann, a 19-year-old U.S. chess grandmaster, of cheating using a chess-playing artificial intelligence (AI) system.
- By feeding records of Niemann's games into chess engines, some experts discovered that Niemann had played a lengthy series of AI-recommended moves in tournament games and that his tactics were frequently similar to those of a computer.
- But some experts contended that the onboard movements in actual games of many players could resemble those of an AI, since human players' training, preparation, and practices are now affected by these engines as well.

A Governor and a Chief Minister at loggerheads

What led Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi to walk out of the Assembly? Have there been similar incidents in the past? How does the Constitution lay down the powers of the Governor? Is there a solution on the cards?

Sandeep Phukan

The story so far:

The Tamil Nadu Assembly witnessed dramatic scenes on January 9. When the Governor skipped portions of the address that was prepared and approved by the State Cabinet, including references to political stalwarts from the State and the Dravidian model of governance, Chief Minister M. K. Stalin moved a resolution to expunge all deviations made by Mr. Ravi and only take the prepared speech for the records. Subsequently, Mr. Ravi walked out of the Assembly.

Is the Governor bound to follow the directions of the State government?

Article 154 of the Constitution says "the executive power of the State shall be vested in the Governor and shall be exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him in accordance with this Constitution". However, Article 163 states that the Governor shall exercise his functions with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers except for functions which require his discretion.

Further, Art 163 (2) states,"If any question arises whether any matter is or is not a matter as respects which the Governor is by or under this Constitution required to act in his discretion, the decision of the Governor in his discretion shall be final".

The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, had made ministerial advice binding on the President but no such provision has been made for the Governor. The Supreme Court of India, however, has in several landmark judgements defined limits of the discretionary powers.

In the 2016 Nabam Rebia judgement, a five-judge Bench led by then Chief Justice of India, J. S. Khehar, said that Article 163 of the Constitution does not give the Governor a "general discretionary power to act against or without the advice of his council of ministers".

In the Shamsher Singh & Anr versus State Of Punjab (1974), a seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court said that the President and the Governor shall exercise their formal powers in accordance with the advice of their Ministers other than in some exceptional situations.

Are non-BJP-ruled States on a collision course with the Governor's office?

In most non-BJP States, the elected governments and the Governor's office have been on a constant collision course.

In October, Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, as Chancellor of State universities, asked 11 Vice-Chancellors to resign citing irregularities in their appointments. The Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front government hit back by passing a Bill that removed the Governor as the Chancellor of the State universities.

In Telangana, Governor Tamilisai Soundarajan and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao have often engaged in public sparring.

When Maharashtra was ruled by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), a coalition formed by Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, Congress, and the Nationalist Congress Party, the MVA government clashed with Governor B. S. Koshiyari over their choice of the Assembly Speaker.

What is the way out?

Several experts panels were set up to suggest to improve Centre-State relations. Most of these reports have advocated for appointing non-political Governors through independent mechanisms after consultations with the concerned Chief Ministers. The Sarkaria Commission had pointed out that the role of the Governor "is to see that a government is formed and not to try to form a government". However, the recommendations of these reports have not been taken up by any government so far.

THE GIST

- Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi walked out of the Assembly after Chief Minister M. K. Stalin said only the portions of the Governor's speech prepared and approved by the State Cabinet. Deviations from the original text would be expunged.
- The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, had made ministerial advice binding on the President but no such provision has been made for the Governor. The Supreme Court of India, however, has in several landmark judgements defined limits of the discretionary powers.
- Non-BJP State governments have alleged that these constant face-offs have resulted in delays in getting gubernatorial assent for Bills passed by the Assembly and have affected governance.

Guidance TamilNadu

Nodal agency for investment promotion and facilitation, Govt. of Tamil Nadu

Recruitment Notification – Admin/HR/10/2023 dated 13.01.2023

Recruitment on contract basis on consolidated pay on rolling basis – Applications are invited from eligible candidates for various roles. For detailed notification and terms and conditions please visit **www.investingintamilnadu.com.**

DIPR/29/Display/2023

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH SAMAGRA SHIKSHA

STATE PROJECT OFFICE, KBC BOYS HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS, OPP.RAITHU BAZAR, PATAMATA, VIJAYAWADA, ANDHRA PRADESH

TENDER NOTICE

e-Procurement notice No. SS-16/34/2022-CMO SEC-SSA, Dt.12-01-2023

Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh is inviting tenders through e-procurement for supply of School Bags and Shoes under the scheme of "Jagananna Vidya Kanuka" to all the students (approximately **43.10 lakhs** in number) studying classes I to X in Government/MPP/ZPP/Municipal/KGBVs/Model Schools/Residential/Aided Schools of Education and welfare departments in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2023-24. For details please visit **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** from **13-01-2023** Tender/RFP form can be downloaded from website. Eligible firms are requested to upload the prescribed format as per the schedules given in the above said site. Contact No. **0866-2428599.**

DIPR 1494PP/CL, Dt.12-01-2023 **Sd/- State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh.**

CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI

No/CCB/PWD/EE/DM/TND/E-proc-21/2022-23 Dated:11-01-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT)

The Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 Rules 2000 through E-procurement as per Standard Tender Documents for the works approved under 15th Finance 2022-23 (Tied Grant), Swatch Bharat Mission & Corproation fund, total 07 no's of work tender is called. The last date for the submission of tender is 21-01-2023. For more details visit online website (https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in). Any Addendum/ Corrigendum will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Sd/-Commissioner
City Corporation Belagavi

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1536/MCA/2022-23

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR BIDS –TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM

IFB No.	No .53/F O&M / Out sourcing of 293 CWSS/ DO/ 2022/ dt. 10.01.2023
Eligibility	Class I Contractors
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Integrated Office Complex, First Floor, No.243/2, Thanjavur-Trichy Main Road, Pillayarpatty, Thanjavur - 613 403.
Sale of Bid	**13.01.2023** to **14.02.2023** upto **05.45 pm**
EMD Payable at	Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, RWS Division, Trichy.
Pre Bid meeting	**30.01.2023** at **11.00 AM** at the office of the CE,TWAD Board, Thanjavur .
Downloading (free of cost)	**www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and **www.twadboard.tn.gov.in**
Bid Submission	**15.02.2023** upto **3.00 PM** at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid opening	**15.02.2023** at **3.30 PM** at the office of the Tender Invitee

IFB No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs. in Crore)	Bid Security (Rs.in lakhs)
53	Outsourcing of Operation and Maintenance of CWSS to 293 Habitations in Musiri, T.Pet, Thuraiyur & Uppiliyapuram Union of Trichy District for the period from 01.02.2023 to 31.01.2027.	**Rs. 9.55**	**Rs. 7.20**

DIPR/ 275 /TENDER/2023 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

Chief Engineer (i/c), TWAD Board, Thanjavur.

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board Office of the Chief Engineer

Jalamandali Compound, Sir.M. Vishveshvarayya Road,Dharwad-580 001 E-mail: kwbcen@gmail.com Tel No: 0836-2447090

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders for the following works are invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement portal (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. **This office Tender Notification No: 1934, Dated: 11-01-2023.**

(1) Providing Water Supply Improvements to Hukkeri town Under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation). **WORK_INDENT/3279. (2)** Providing Water Supply Improvements to Sankeshwar town Under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation).**WORK_INDENT/3280. (3)** Remodeling of Water Supply Distribution Network for Zone 7 at Mudhol City Under AMRUT 2.0" including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation). **WORK_INDENT/3281.**

For further information visit e-procurement portal Or the Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may please be contacted.

DIPR/DWD/966/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY **Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD.**

Government of Karnataka

Rural Development & Panchayat Department

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chitradurga

Phone No.: 08194-234488 e-mail: eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com

No.: R.W.S.&S./D/C/EE/B4/Tender/2022-23/1897 Date: 09.01.2023

Tender Notice

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka, Tender is invited in single cover system through e-procurement portal, subject to Standard Tender Documents KW – 3 Rules from eligible class contractors registered with Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Circle, Davanagere/ Chief Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Department, Bengaluru, for 128 works of Rs. 6230.37 lakhs in the limits of Hosadurga Taluk, for 06 works of Rs. 136.38 lakhs in the limits of Challakere Taluk, for 69 works of Rs. 3877.80 lakhs in the limits of Holalkere Taluk and for 82 works of Rs. 4325.42 lakhs in the limits of Hiriyuru Taluk, under J.J.M. Scheme for the year 2022-23. Last date for submission of Tender: 24.01.2023 up to 4.00 PM. Date of opening Technical Bid: 25.01.2023 at 4.30 PM and date of opening Financial Bid: 27.01.2023 at 11.00 AM. Details of the works are published in website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and for further information contact Executive Engineer, R.W.S. & S. Division, Chitradurga during office hours.

DIPR/CTA/MCA/ 864/2022-23 Executive Engineer, R.D.W.S. & S. Division, Chitradurga

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Agriculture Produce Market Committee

Sri Channabasava swamy Gunj, Gangavathi-583227
E-mail : apmcgangavathi@gmail.com
T : 08533-270265 Fax : 08533-270265

Sl. No.AMD/ APMC/GVT/DEV/1772 / 2022-23 Date: 10 /01/2023

Tender Notification

Agricultural produce market committee, Gangavathi annual action plan 2022-23 invites tender through e-procurement as per in **2 cover system** for the 3 civil works on item rate basis from the eligible PWD contractors. The Tenderers are required to submit the requisite details through website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in as per KTTP rules and norms. 1) Construction of Raitha Bhavan Building at main market yard of APMC Gangavathi, tender amount: **Rs.68.75 lakhs,** E.M.D : **Rs.1.38 lakhs.** 2) Construction of CC road, drain and culverts at vegetable market block in main market yard of APMC Gangavathi, tender amount: **Rs.134.35 lakhs,** E.M.D : **Rs.2.02 lakhs** 3) Construction of CC road, drain and culverts at "B" Block 6TH cross in main market yard of APMC Gangavathi, tender amount : **Rs.128.92 lakhs,** E.M.D : **Rs.2.00 lakhs.** Last date & time for receipt of Tenders: **25-01-2023;4:00 PM.** Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid: **27-01-2023 ; 4:30 PM.** Date & time for opening of financial Bid: **31-01-2023; 4:30 PM.** Eligibility of contractor: **Class I PWD Civil Contractor.** Any additional information and conditions can be obtained from Website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or by contacting Karnataka Government E-Procurement help Desk at **080-22485867** or Secretary, APMC, GANGAVATHI at **08533-270265** on all working days. Changes if any in the tender notification shall be made known only in the Website. APMC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- **Secretary** APMC, Gangavathi DIPR/KOPPAL/564/2022-23/DESHPANDE PUBLICITY Sd/- **Administrator** APMC, Gangavathi

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MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka undertaking)

Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004

Phone: 0824-2885766 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: GM(A&HRD)/AGM(A)/SA/302 Date: 11.01.2023

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited invites following short-term tender for establishment of Centralized 24 X 7 Customer Care Center at Mangalore.

Sl. No.	Description	Bid Enquiry No.
1	Deployment of various manpower services [Team Leaders and Customer Relation Executives (CRE)] to the Centralized 24 X 7 Customer Care Center as per the requirement of MESCOM for One year.	I/ 33133/2023 dated 09.01.2023

The interested eligible Bidders may log on to website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.01.2023.**

Further bidders can take assistance with e-procurement Help desk.

Sd/- General Manager (A&HRD) MESCOM.

For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. 952/GDG/EE(E)/Bid No./2022-23/7228 Dated : 11.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPTCL invites following Office tenders pertaining to Transmission Lines and Sub-Stations Division, Gadag: **(1)** Supplying Fixing Testing and Commissioning of Siemens make Distance Relay of 220KV Doni line -1 at 220KV R/s Gadag in TL&SS Division, Gadag. **(2)** Supplying of Tripping / Closing Coils for Circuit Breaker for 220KV S/s Gadag. **(3)** Supplying of Breaker and Bus Bar spares for 220KV S/s Gadag. **(4)** Supplying and Fixing of sifang make differential Relay with RTTB of C&R Panel at 110KV S/s Konnur. **(5)** Supplying of 02 No's 11KV CT for Bank-III at 110KV S/s Konnur **(6)** Supplying of Wall Entry Bushing to 11KV Switchgear at 110KV S/s Gadag in TL&SS Division, Gadag.

Enquiry Details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned from **13.01.2023 at 10:00 Hrs** onwards. Due date: **27.01.2023 at 04:00 pm.**

Sd/- Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Bapuji Nagar, Gadag – 582103

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)

Ref:I) No: EE/KNNL/UTP/DN/PB-3/2022-23/2206 & 2208 Dt:10.01.2023 **II)** No: EE/UTP/PB-3/2022-23/2199 Dt:09-01-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER & RETENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement portal system)

Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, from eligible bidders who satisfies through GO e-procurement platform shall submit the bid as per Ref No 1 & 2 in two cover Electronic document system for 3 number of Works under the head of account 4701 &2701 for Tender amount of Rs.410.69 Lakhs. The **details is as follows:** As per Ref (I):**(1)**The contractor can have access to e tender documents for above Tenders From: 11-01-2023 to 19-01-2023 up to 5.30 PM **(2)** Last Date and time for tender queries before 16-01-2023 up to 5.30 PM (3)Last date of bid submission of completed e-tendering documents on 19-01-2023 up to 5.30 PM **(4)** Technical Bid will be opened On 20-01-2023 at 05-35PM

As per Ref (II): (1) The contractor can have access to e tender documents for above Tenders From:12-01-2023 to 20-01-2023 up to 5.30 PM **(2)** Last Date and time for tender queries before 16-01-2023 up to 5.30 PM **(3)** Last date of bid submission of completed e-tendering documents on 20-01-2023 up to 5.30 PM **(4)** Technical Bid will be opened On 21-01-2023 at 05-35 PM & financial Bid will be opened after the Approval Technical Bid at office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the e procurement portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Dn, Ranebennur.

1655

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department

Office of the Chief Engineer, RWS&SD, First Floor, "E" Block, KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 009, Ph: 080-22533700, e-mail: cerws14@gmail.com

No:RDWSD/ISA/31/DOC.EXP/2022 Date: 12-01-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER INVITATION

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Govt. of Karnataka invites tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible bidders in two cover system (Technical and Financial bid) for Selection of a **Digital Media Agency** for Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Government of Karnataka. The last date for submission of bids through e-portal is **19-01-2023 before 4.00 PM.** EMD Amount is **Rs. 1,00,000/-.**

DIPR/CP/BCPL/4055/2022-23 **Sd/- Chief Engineer RDW&SD, Bengaluru**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client is negotiating to purchase all that property described in the Schedule herein from **Sri. G. H Narayanaswamy S/o Hanumanthappa** and **Sri G. H Ramaswamy S/o Hanumanthappa,** who claims to be the owners of the **Schedule Property.**Any person or persons ascertaining any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof and in any manner whatsoever against the Schedule Property based on the documents pertaining to the Schedule Property or objecting for the proposed Sale may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no objections/claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE agricultural land bearing Sy.No.140/1 measuring 9 Guntas, 140/2 measuring 8 Guntas, 140/3 measuring 16 Guntas & 140/4, measuring 16 Guntas, totally measuring 1 Acre 09 Guntas, situated at Gunjur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the

East by : Govt Raja Kaluve;
West by : Land bearing Sy No 127;
North by : Road and Land bearing Sy No 139;
South by : Land bearing Sy No 18 & 19.

ROOPA SHETTY Advocate
Lex Situs, No.810, 'BILWAPRIYA PLATINA', 2nd Floor, 27th Main Road, HSR Layout, Sector 1, Bangalore - 560102.
Phone: 080-22583563, 9902026199; Email:info@lexsitus.com

Government of Karnataka

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD Ramanagara Special Division, Ramanagara

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 20/2022-23 Dated 10-01-2023

Short Term Tenders are invited in two cover system from the eligible contractors for 01 works from Rs. 320.00 Lakhs through e-procurement portal as per the Standard bid documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Documents may be downloaded from 10-01-2023 to 23-01-2023, Pre bid Meeting Date : 18-01-2023, Last date for submission of tender 23-01-2023 upto 16.00 hours, Date of opening of Technical bid 24-01-2023 (If possible) at 16.30 hours. Tender Processing Fees, EMD as per E-Procurement. For more information contact the undersigned during Office Hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Spl. Division, Ramanagara

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(M)/RMGC/EE/AEE-1/F-35/22-23/4637-39 Date: 11.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against Bid enq.No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/EPR-360 Dtd: 09.01.2023 for supplying and replacement of 160KN Porcelain disc insulator strings-tension strings and 120kV Porcelain Disc Insulator Strings-suspension strings provided to 400kV Nelamangala-Talaguppa & Nelamangala-Hassan D/c lines by long rod silicon rubber composite polymer 160kN insulator strings & 120kN insulator strings in TLM sub-division, Nelamangala pertains to Ramanagara Circle ON TOTAL TURN KEY BASIS. Amount put to tender: Rs.1,63,95,290.00 and EMD Rs. 1,63,953.00. The bid will be received through e-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the enquiry can be obtained by logging on to e-procurement website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 13.01.2023 at 16.30 hrs.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer(Ele.), Transmission(M),RMGC, KPTCL, 220/66/11 KV Vrushabhavati Station Premises, Mysore Road, Bengaluru-560 026, Ph: 080-29620155.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A government of Karnataka Enterprises)

Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No.EE.KNNL:No.4.BRLBC Dn:BDVT:PB-5:Informative qutotaion: 2022-23: Date:07.01.2023

NOTIFICATION

Informative quotations are invited regarding **Repairs & maintenance of DG Gantry crane of Capacity 45/4.5 Ton and 75/7.5 Ton at Bhadra Dam under DRIP-II Project.**

The interested Firms / Agencies / Suppliers are requested to send their sealed Rate cum Informative quotation on or before 16.01.2023 with in 4.00 PM to Division office, Bhadravathi. The quotation will be opened at the division office Bhadravathi on the same day or otherwise the date will be intimated. The intending Firms / Agencies / Suppliers may be present at the time of opening.

For more conditions and details visit website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone **No. 08282- 271063**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL., No.4, B.R.L.B.C, Division Bhadravathi

DIPR/smg/No.84/01/mca/22-23/1656

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.SEE/T(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AE-2/2022-23/5624 Date: 11.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(E-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids vide the below mentioned bid enquiry No.:

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/T(W&M)/MYS/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-2/603 Dated: 09.01.2023 **for Design, Manufacture, Testing and supply of a) 1 set of 2 x 220 V, 300 AH (with 2 nos. of float and 2 nos. of boost battery charger including control panels, change over arrangement etc., complete along with 2 separate DC Distribution Panel (Indoor) 11/C + 20 O/G SFU 60A + 20 O/G SFU 30A.**

b) 6 Sets of 110 Volts, 100 AH with float cum boost battery charger working on 230 V, 1 Ph AC supply Required at various sub-stations in Transmission Circle Mysuru conforming to Technical Specifications F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including all applicable taxes insurance and transportation.

2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/T(W&M)/MYS/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-2/600 Dated: 09.01.2023 **for Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 20MVA, 66/11kV, Bharath Bijlee make sl no.4767/9 lying at 66/11kV Gundlupete Substation on total turnkey basis.**

3) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/T(W&M)/MYS/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-2/602 Dated: 09.01.2023 **for Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 100MVA, 220/66/11KV, ALSTOM Make, Sl No. B- 29797 lying at Madhuvanahalli 220/66/11KV Substation on total turnkey basis.**

4) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/T(W&M)/MYS/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-2/599 Dated: 09.01.2023 **for Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 8 MVA, 66/11kV, Ashoka make sl no.5030 lying at 66/11kV Arakalavadi Substation on total turnkey basis.**

5) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/T(W&M)/MYS/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-2/601 Dated: 09.01.2023 **for Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 12.5MVA, 66/11KV, Andrewyule Make, Sl No.12364 lying at 66/11KV K.R.Pete Substation on total turnkey basis.**

The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link **"e-Procurement"** OR **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **17.01.2023 (Sl. No.1, 2 & 3) & 18.01.2023 (Sl. No.4 & 5)** Any further details can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, 1st Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, Mysuru-07.

Government of Karnataka

(Karnataka Rural water supply & Sanitation Department)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, DIVISION KALABURGI-585105

No:EE/RDW&S/Dvn/Tech/2022-23/2800 Dated : 10-01-2023

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two cover)

The Executive Engineer Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, Kalaburagi on behalf of Honorable Governor, Karnataka here by invites separate Technical & Financial bid tender for drinking water works from eligible civil contractor detailed as below

The Tender Document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site **http://eporc.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through E-procurment system only

1) Name of work: **Chincholi Taluka -02 (Indent No 54103 & 54101),** 2) Head of A/C: JJM 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class- III & Above, 4) Tender Amount: Min 1,98,48,426/-, Max 2,10,14,549/-, 5) Date of Commencement of downloading of Bidding document: **10-01-2023**, 6) Cost of tender form and EMD: As per E-portal, 7) Pre bid meeting date: **16-01-2023 11.00am**, 8) Last Date to submit bids on e-portal: **18-01-2023 4.00pm**, 9) Opening of Techincal Bid: **19-01-2023 4.01pm**, 10) Opening of Financial Bid: **21-01-2023 11:00am**, 11) Address for any clarification reg.tender: Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, PRE division 1st floor Kusanoor road Kalaburagi.

DIP/Kalaburagi/1100/MC&A/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer RDW&S Division, Kalaburagi**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ZILLA PANCHAYATH RAICHUR

THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION RAICHUR

NO./EE/RDWS&S/RCR/TS/JJM/2022-23/2431 DATED : 03-01-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer RDWS & S Division Raichur invites tenders from eligible tenderers Registered under e-procurement civil contractors in Panchayath Engineering Department, for Providing water supply scheme to below works, as per KW-2, 3 & 4 Standard Bid Document Under JJM 2022-23 GOI&GOK Fund (90%) &Community Contribution (10%) and 15th Finance TP. The tenderers may submit tenders for the works given in the table in GOK e- Procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in only as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed.

1) Notification Date: 03-01-2023. 2) Download of tender schedule documents online: 04-01-2023 3) Pre Bid Meeting at Office of the Executive Engineer, RDWS&S,Division, Raichur, 2nd Floor, Zilla Panchyath, Raichur : 10-01-2023 at 11:00 4) Last date for receiving of filled tender documents: 23-01-2023 at 5:30 Pm 5) Opening of Technical bid: 25-01-2023 at 11:00 Am 6) Opening of Financial bid : 26-01-2023 at 11:00 Am

Indent Nos.:- **Deodurga:** 44723, 44724 & 53285 15th Finance **Lingasugur:** 50193 **Manvi:** 51012, 51019, 49148 & 54106 MVS O&M **Raichur:** 53837, 53836, 49090, 49087, 49084, 51993

More details can be had from the Office of the under signed and also through our website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in by clicking the List of Tenders which will be link all Dept. works list.

DIP/Raichur/525/K.S.M.A & C/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDWS&S. Divn, Raichur**

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Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580 ▪ Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMANULLA Khan Sarver Khan, R/a No.31/3, Masjid Street, Neelasandra, Bangalore-560047 have changed my name to Amanulla Khan vide affidavit dt: 09.01.2023 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

I, MUMTAJ, W/o Aslam Khan, R/o #13, 3rd Cross, 5th Main, Near H A L Kalyana Mantapa, L B Shastry Nagar, Bengaluru-560017, have changed my name from Mumtaj to Mumtaj Sheriff A vide affidavit dt : 12-01-2023 before Notary A R Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

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Visit: www.ambaricbse.edu.in

Mob: 9360385203

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RANI Mehtha, R/a No.1150/53, 1st Main Road, 3rd Cross, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040 have changed my name to Rani Jain vide affidavit dt: 09.01.2023 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru

I, MUBHARAK Basha K.N, r/at No.25, 1st Cross, Neelasandra, South Cross Street, Bangalore South, Viveknagar, Bangalore-560047 have changed my name as Mubarak Basha K.N vide affidavit dtd 12.01.2023 sworn before Notary Ramachadrappa. C, Bluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **T NARASIMHARAO @ T BABU** S/o Narasaiah, Aged about 43 years, residing at No. 33, 2nd Cross, Hanumanthappa colony, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru 560 020, have changed my name from **T. BABU** to **T.NARASIMHARAO.**, vide affidavit dated 12/1/2023 sworn to before Ravi Kumar. V advocate and notary Bangalore

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, TEJMAL Mohanlal Mehtha, R/a No. 1150/53, 1st Main Road, 3rd Cross, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040 have changed my name to Tejmal Mehtha vide affidavit dt: 09.01.2023 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT
NO.1 RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI - 1

TENDER NOTIFICATION:

Notice inviting e-Tender Cum e-Auction in Central Public Procurement Portal through NIC for running of Canteen inside custom bound area on annual premium basis for a period of 3 years (Extendable for a further period of 2 years annually on the same terms and conditions), under Two Cover System from 12.01.2023 to 09.02.2023

For further details visit Ch.P.A. website **www.chennaiport.gov.in** and **www.eprocure.gov.in**

TRAFFIC MANAGER

TENDERS

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE

Ida Scudder Road, Vellore, Tamilnadu -632004.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Applications are invited from reputed simulation designing firms to Re-model the existing BMT unit / A9 ward area (15,000 sqft.) and old STICU area (7000 sqft.) at the Main Hospital Campus, Vellore, Tamil Nadu to a state-of-the art Advanced simulation cum Skills center on Design, Integrate the existing mannequins / task trainers and Implement Basis. The total built-up area is about 22,000 sqft.

Interested firms may contact princi@cmcvellore.ac.in and picu@cmcvellore.ac.in

J BG-BGE

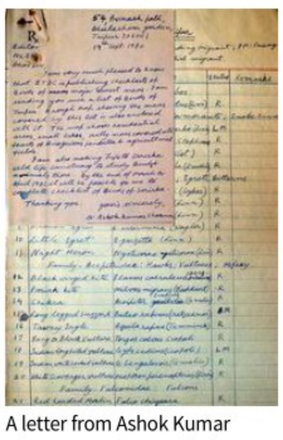
$440,000 grant to preserve history of science in contemporary India

The Archives plans to digitise manuscripts, photographs, oral testimonies and histories of individuals and groups who have played a vital role in the development and dissemination of knowledge and practices in ecology and conservation

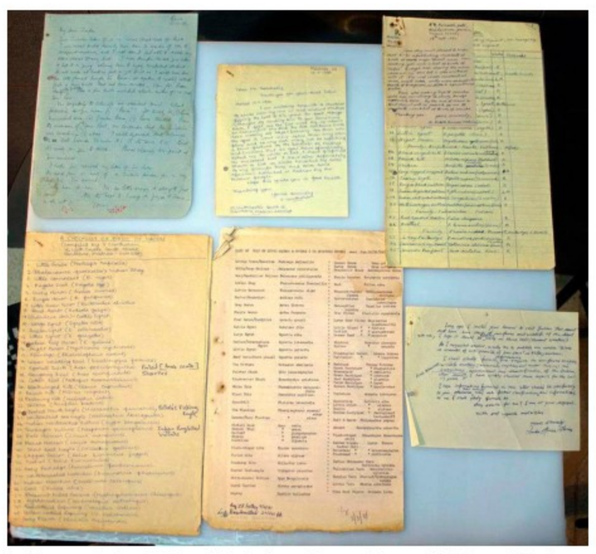
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Archives at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) received a $440,000 grant from Arcadia for a project titled 'Documenting the Contemporary History of Science in India'.

The Archives at NCBS is a space dedicated to the history of science in contemporary India. The three-year US$440,000 project at the Archives, which started in December 2022, aims to collect, preserve and make available online endangered cultural artefacts pertaining to the contemporary (~200 years) history of science in the country. "The Archives was started with a vision of being a place where we could maintain an archive of



A letter from Ashok Kumar Sharma to Zafar Futehally, dated September 19, 1980. Attached is a handwritten check-list of birds of Jaipur. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Letters and checklists of birds from the archives of National Centre for Biological Sciences SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

scientific lives and trajectories, achievements, discussions and dialogues around the life sciences in the country, (which) could be useful for researchers in the future," said Prof. Satyajit Mayor, Centre Director, NCBS. Arcadia is a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin. It supports charities and scholarly institutions that preserve cultural heritage and the environment. Since 2002, it has awarded more than $1 billion to projects around the world.

The Archives plans to collect, preserve and digitize artefacts, including manuscripts, photographs, oral testimonies and histories of individuals and groups who have played a vital role in the development and dissemination of knowledge and practices in ecology and conservation.

The first year of the project focuses on diverse histories of ecology and conservation, including indigenous communities and organizations involved in grass-roots conservation. This focus will subsequently be expanded in the second year to include other scientific fields under the umbrella of the project.

In line with Arcadia's commitment towards diversity, equity and inclusion, the Archives also intends to make the archival data accessible to a larger audience, via open-source platforms.

Night beat police accused of extortion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In yet another case of allegations against the night beat police, a private firm employee has accused them of allegedly planting a piece of marijuana twig in his bag and later extorting money accusing him of carrying narcotics early on Wednesday.

The victim, Vaibhav Patil, from Himachal Pradesh, landed in the city six months ago and was working in a private firm on night shift. According to him, he was heading home after booking a bike taxi when two policemen stopped the bike near Ayyappa temple in HSR Layout around 3.45 a.m. He alleged in his social media post tagging the police that on the pretext of checking his bag, the police pulled out a twig from nowhere and accused him of consuming drugs and started forcing him to confess. When Vaibhav refused, they threatened to foist a case and said that they will get a reward of ₹15,000 each and asked him to pay ₹100 to the bike rider and sent him off.

The duo took him on bike riding triple to the hospital for a check up and detoured to an isolated place where they demanded him to pay up or face arrest. They later checked his bank balance to find he only had around ₹4,000. They asked him to get the amount from the ATM, but he did not have the card. Finally, the duo took ₹2,500 from him and let him go with advice not to venture out, he alleged.

DCP C.K. Baba later replied to his tweet: " Dear Vaibhav. We understand that you are worried and scared. Request you to DM your details and meet me at my office ASAP, and be assured that we will initiate action. You can reach me."

RPF rescues 11 minor girls from Jharkhand

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of Railway Protection Force (RPF) on Tuesday unearthed a human trafficking racket and rescued 11 minor girls who were being brought to city from Jharkhand.

The victims, aged between 14 and 15, along with a minor boy aged 17, were brought to city for labour work and escorted by two men, were waiting outside the KSR railway station when ASI V. Bhagyalakshmi and Constable Navya K.L., who were on rounds, noticed the children and questioned the accused.

Since the duo did not give a satisfactory reply, the girls were rescued and handed over to child line, while the two men escorting the children were handed over to the railway police for investigation.

The children are being counselled by members of Child Welfare Committee.

'Ellu-bella' hits the market as people gear up for Sankranti

Gizelle Gina D'Silva
BENGALURU

"*Ellu bella thindu, olle maathaadu*" - the festival fervour starts nearly a month early in Bengaluru. The preparation of the ellu mixture involves scraping coconut, and finely chopped jaggery into tiny pieces called 'ellu-bella'. Preparing 'sakkare achu' is a challenging process that involves pouring the sugar syrup into wooden moulds. Bengalureans are gearing up to celebrate the with must-haves that are synonymous with Sankranti.

In the olden days, ellu-bella and sakkare achu were prepared in households traditionally. "Although my mother and grandmother still make ellu bella and sakkare achu at home, we have noticed that most people do not prepare them anymore. They buy these festive treats from markets as they are easily available," said Gaurav Jois, a resident of Padmanabhanagar.

There are also those who make these treats at home and sell them. Sushma Naresh, a resident of JP Nagar 7th phase, has been selling homemade Sankranti goodies for 20 years. "Our ellu bella comes in two varieties, with and without jeera peppermint and kusuri ellu. The sakkare achu is made naturally using curd, milk and sugar." The emergence of home delivery apps and social media marketing are helping homemakers sell the goodies in and around Bengaluru. "We receive orders from food delivery apps, while social media

Ellu Bella and sugar candy packets on sale at a shop in K.R. Market, on the eve of Makara Sankranti in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

helps us connect with a large base of customers," Ms. Naresh added.

Customers have also indulged in buying organic Sankranti festive treats. Buffalo Back Collective, is a store selling organic variants of Sankranti goodies in Jayanagar 1st Block. "As we are an organic store, we found that an alternative to making sakkare achu would be bellada achu or jaggery candy," said Roopa Prabhakar, a trustee at Buffalo Back Collective.

Due to the increase in demand for ellu bella and sakkare achu each year, condiment stores prepare these goodies during the first week of December. "We prepare ellu bella from the first week of December. Some of our customers have settled abroad. When they come to India during the second week of December, they buy them during this time. Moreover, the quantity of sakkare achu we sold this year is approximately 1 tonne," said Nagaraja Adiga, the owner of the Sri Manjunatha Condiments at Gandhi Bazaar.

Most vendors are selling ellu bella for ₹150 to ₹500 per kg and sakkare achu for ₹200 to ₹400 per kg.

'Collect property tax from new OC holders'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has instructed revenue officers to identify assets with new 'Occupancy Certificate' under the BBMP jurisdiction, fix tax for such assets, bring them under the property tax net, and take steps to collect it.

At a virtual meeting on tax collection, he told officials to collect property tax from top 10 defaulters in all eight zones under the corporation. "To collect property tax in the respective zone, the weekly target given to the revenue officers should be met without fail. In this regard, zonal commissioners should hold daily review meeting to ensure that the target has been reached," he said.

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New thrust: After four back-to-back flops, the buzz around *Pathaan* must have given its producers Yash Raj Films some confidence. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Be it in movies or in society, India has always cherished its syncretic culture

In spite of the fickle sentiments that were hurt by a song from the Hindi movie *Pathaan*, a procession at an Uttar Pradesh wedding goes on to show how people of the country accommodate and absorb the intermingling of cultures and faith

Anuj Kumar

In between Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra taking umbrage over the visuals of Deepika Padukone gyrating in a saffron bikini to "*Besharm Rang*" in the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Pathaan* and an FIR being lodged against the principal of a government school in Uttar Pradesh for making the students sing Muhammad Iqbal's "*Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua Banke Tamanna Meri*", one attended a wedding procession in Baraut town of western Uttar Pradesh.

Among many songs that the Muslim band master reeled out in dual voice, there were "*Julie Julie, Julie Ka Dil Tujh Pe Aaya Johnny*" (*Jeete Hain Shaan Se*) and "*Haan Mujhe Pyaar Hua Allah Miyan*" (*Judaai*). The *baraat* (procession) merrily danced to the numbers and when the procession reached the temple, the master switched to *Satyam Shivam Sundaram* to usher the groom inside the sanctum sanctorum. Unlike the Vishwa Hindu Parishad functionary in Bareilly, who got offended by references to Rab and Khuda in Iqbal's poem that espoused love for knowledge and empathy for the poor, nobody noticed the Christian names and Islamic references in a Hindu *baraat* or the fact that a Muslim singer was singing a Sanskrit phrase that implies truth is god, god is beautiful. It was simply a day in the life of India whose syncretic culture we cherish.

It is in India where the romantics could hum Hasrat Jaipuri's "*Ibitida-e-ishq main hum saari raat jaage, Allah jane kya hoga aage*" without minding that the protagonists in the film are non-Muslims or Mohit Chauhan could render "*Kun Faya Qun*" in *Rockstar* for a non-Muslim character. On a lighter note, Anand Bakshi could describe "*mausam*" (weather) as *beimaan* (Loafer) and Gulzar could compare his muse's feet with lotus - *Jahan Tere Pairon Ke Kanwal Gira Karte The* - without being taken literally. Gulzar has done it again in *Kuttey* where he could smell *soundhi khushbu* (petrichor) in blood during a Naxalite attack. As for *rang* (colour), it has been used in several songs including the popular Shah Rukh Khan number from *Dilwale* where he lip-syced to "*Rang De Mujhe Geruaa*" (colour me saffron) during a romantic situation. Going by the logic of those against *Besharm Rang*, the *Dilwale* song should be seen as an insidious way to show loyalty to the rulers of the day.

Similarly, to hate "*Bachchon Ki Dua*" just because it was penned by Iqbal is as small-minded as loathing "*Sagar Pran Talamala*" just because it was written by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

Poetry and subversion

Poetry, as our current Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) Chief Prasoon Joshi would attest, has deeper meanings that change according to context and intent and could not be judged through a song or a trailer. Censorship will only lead to more poetic subversion for poets, who, at times, don't even need words that have a dictionary meaning to express their thoughts. Who would know it better than Mr. Joshi who once coined the beautiful word *Masakali?*

By the way, in the trailer of the *Pathaan*, Deepika Padukone's character could be seen fighting in a saffron outfit. It seems "*Besharm Rang*" objectifies the female body but it can't be said until it is watched in the context of the film. Till *Pushpa* released, most felt that Samantha Ruth Prabhu's number "*Oo Antava*" crosses the line of decency but the argument lost its bite once the film was released as the song turns the gaze towards men where a woman, even if she is objectified, is in a more powerful position.

When S.D. Burman adapted Bengali folk singer Abbasuddin Ahmed's Bengali folk song "*Allah Megh De*" for *Guide* (1965), its context changed but it still worked. For many faithfuls, Ahmed's song essentially refers to the extreme thirst faced by the followers of Husayn ibn Ali during the battle of Karbala. They cry out to the Almighty to send them rain-bearing clouds, but in *Guide* lyricist Shailendra turned it into Raju's tryst to end a drought by appealing to Ram, Shyam and Allah. A decade later, the song was adapted by Gulzar in *Palkon Ki Chhaon Mein* (1977), again as a call for rain gods.

However, the inability to understand the context of the song is not singular to one group. There are those who object to singing Vande Matram but defend the practice of *sajda* (prostration) and *chaar taslim* (four salutations) in the Mughal court.

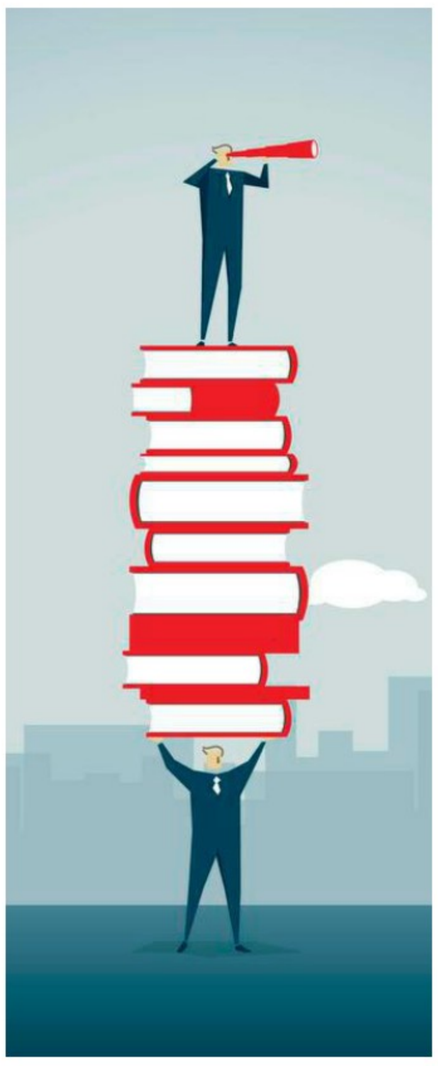
The wokes dissed Raj Shekhar's song "*Beyonce Sharma Jayegi*" from *Khaali Peeli* as there is a line in the song that goes "*Tujhe Dekh Ke Goriya, Beyonce Sharma Jayegi*". Social media dubbed it as racist because *goriya* translates as a fair girl but Shekhar said he used the word just to denote a girl and cited the example of a Majrooh Sultanpuri song from *Dharam Karam* where the lyricist said "*Parde Ke Peeche Baithi Saanwal Gori*." Here *Saanwal* (dusky) is used as an adjective before *Gori*, a noun. However, eventually, Shekhar apologised and the line was changed.

The Boycott Bollywood campaign on social media is not limited to particular actors. It is against a perceived attempt to demonise and ridicule Hindu gods, rituals, and a section of the upper caste. Recently, a seemingly inconsequential sequence in *Thank God!* was criticised because it suggests a beggar died because of hunger in a temple because the protagonist didn't give her alms. Similarly, *Shamshera* was taken to task because the megalomaniac police officer was named Shuddh (pure) Singh who sports Hindu symbols of *shikha* and *tilak*, works for the British, and proclaims Indian dirt could be cleaned only by Indian hand.

Reflection of society

As cinema, like literature, is a reflection of the society, the cinematic taste also changes with the change in the socio-political choices of the citizenry. If a significant section of India is voting for the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), it is imperative that after a period of time, it will assert its choices in the cultural space as well. As a politician, Mr. Mishra takes time out from his job of maintaining law and order in the State to watch a song because he feels his constituency will appreciate his stand and it will empower them to hit the street if required and take on a government body like CBFC if it doesn't fall in line.

Notably, such controversies surround only tentpoles and if it is a controlled fission, it helps the producer in generating an electric atmosphere around the film without spending much on publicity. After four back-to-back flops, which by the way included the 'nationalistic' *Samrat Prithviraj*, the buzz around *Pathaan* must have given Yash Raj Films some confidence.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

Mrs. B. Padma of Tiruchi is puzzled by the expression 'unity and integrity of the country. She feels that 'integrity' refers to the character of a person and it is not appropriate in the context. She says it should be replaced by 'integration'.

It is true that 'integrity' refers to the sterling character of a person. However, it also means 'completeness, wholeness'. 'Integrity' is used in this sense and it is correct.

Mr. B. Sankar Rao of Vizianagaram wants to know the meaning of the phrase 'of course'.

'Of course' means 'naturally, without doubt, certainly'. Do you agree with him? Of course, I do. Will you come and help me? Of course, I will. Are you starting a new party? Of course not.

Several leaders would like to know the meaning of 'I dare say'.

'I dare say' does not mean 'I dare to say' or 'I have the courage to say'. In modern English it means 'I assume as possible. I think it likely, I suppose'. This is used only in the first person singular and the present tense. 'I dare say it will rain this afternoon' means 'it is likely that it will rain this afternoon'. I dare say he'll come later. 'You are tired, I dare say' means 'I suppose you are tired'. Please remember always that 'I dare to say' is different from 'I dare say'.

Mr V. Jagannathan of Madurai wants to know which is correct: (i) by-law or bye-law. (ii) by-pass or bye-pass.

'By-law' and 'bye-law' are both acceptable. There must be a hyphen before 'law'. A hyphen is the sigh (-) that has been used here to join by (bye) and law. A bye-law is a 'law or regulation made by a local authority, or a corporation or a company'. The word 'bye' is from an Old Norse word meaning 'town'. It is different from 'by' which means 'near'. 'Law' is also from Old Norse which literally means something 'laid down, fixed'. Bypass can be written with or without a hyphen. A bypass is a 'road taking traffic round a congested area'. It also means a 'second channel for use when the main route is blocked'. For example, in a 'bypass surgery', an alternative passage for the circulation of blood is provided during the operation.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on the fictional dogs from books, movies and television shows

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Abhinaya K.

QUESTION 1

Constantly terrified by various aliens, this dog tries to overcome its fears while protecting its adopted family. A mix of horror and comedy, this show's pilot episode was nominated for an Academy Award. Name the show.

QUESTION 2

The mystery in this book surrounds the disappearance of dogs, including the protagonists's beloved dog, Scamper. Other books by this author also have dogs, Timothy and Buster, who go on adventures with the lead characters. Who is the author? Name the title of the book.

QUESTION 3

What do Snoopy from the Peanuts comic and Daisy, the dog whose murder causes former hitman John Wick to return to the underworld and go on a killing spree, have in common?

QUESTION 4

This rare magical beast in the wizarding world cannot resist falling asleep to the sound of music. Ron once said that this dog was in desperate need of exercise. Name the dog.

QUESTION #5

In the hands of the gifted director, this skinny dog becomes a metaphor for the oppressed community and lives on with its owner as a memory as he struggles through life. Name the movie.

QUESTION #6

In the Archie Comics, Hot Dog is the best friend and pet dog of which whoopee cap-wearing, quick-witted character. They share love for being lazy and food.

The inspiration for this character's name came from a Frank Sinatra song. Name the song.

Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Who was the first Indian to win the Golden Globe Awards ? **Ans: A.R. Rahman**
2. Name the Indian film which won an Oscar? **Ans: No Indian film has won an oscar so far**
3. Complete the list and explain why ? Bhanu Athaiya,AR Rahman,Gulzaar,Resul Pookutty and _____ **Ans: Satyajit Ray**
4. Which is the organization behind the Golden Globe awards? **Ans: Hollywood Foreign Press Association**
5. Which documentary shot in India won the Best Documentary (Short Subject) in 2009?. **Ans: Smile Pinki**

Visual: Identify this Thoothukudi born Oscar Winner. **Ans: Cottalango Leon**

Early Birds

Bhanu Priya — K.N. Viswanathan — Teena Achint — Ankita Jha

Word of the day

Flounder: struggle or stagger clumsily in mud or water, be in serious difficulty

Synonyms: falter, stumble, bumble

Usage: *He was floundering about in the shallow offshore waters*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/flounderpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈflaʊndə(r)/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

FRIDAY
January 13, 2023

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J BG-BGE

Post accident, BMRCL to revise guidelines for metro construction

BMRCL to mandate two-stage reinforcement and concretising during construction of metro pillars

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the line of fire, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is all set to issue fresh guidelines mandating a two-stage reinforcement and concretising during construction of metro pillars to avoid accidents. This comes days after an under-construction 18-metre-tall reinforcement structure for a metro pillar fell on a bike, killing a mother-son duo, along the K.R. Puram - airport line on January 10.

As per the procedure now being followed, workers create a 1-metre high concrete base on which they erect the iron reinforcement for pillar ranging in height from 12-23 metres, and tying them with a guy-wire.

Questions were raised on the height of the pillar by both experts and the family of the deceased in the recent accident.

Metro work under way on Outer Ring Road near HBR Layout in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"How could the contractor raise a 18-metre-high pillar without adequate safety precautions? That is what killed my child," alleged Madan Kumar, father of the deceased Tejaswini.

Not the first such incident

This was not the first time that iron reinforcement for an under-construction metro pillar got bent and dangled dangerously on moving vehicles on the road below. Two workers were injured on CMH Road in 2009, and photographs of similar incidents from HSR Layout and Bellandur have surfaced on Twitter.

Anjum Parvez, Managing Director, BMRCL, said the corporation will issue a fresh set of guidelines making two-stage reinforcement and concretising mandatory for all pillars over a height of 12 metres across Bengaluru. "From now on, instead of erecting the reinforcement on a 1-metre concrete base, it has to be done in two stages. For a 18-metre pillar, like the one that crashed on January 10, contractors need to first erect a reinforcement of 9 metres, concretise it and then erect a reinforcement for the second stage of another 9 metres. This way, the second stage of the reinforcement will have a strong base of 9 metres of concrete, preventing it from tilting or crashing," he explained.

Work on Namma Metro airport line stopped

BMRCL has brought down the reinforcement of three other 18-metre-long under-construction pillars on the K. R. Puram - airport line to 12 metres to prevent any further untoward incident. These pillars will also be built in two stages. Post the accident, work on the line has stopped.

"We are in the final stages of drafting the new guidelines and will mostly issue them on January 13. Work will resume across Bengaluru on the basis of the new guidelines from January 16," Mr. Parvez said.

Meanwhile, BMRCL has served a notice on Nagarjuna Construction Company (NCC) Limited, the contractor of the airport line.

The contractor is yet to respond. The report of an independent study by Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) is also awaited.

Petition against road widening and flyover on Sankey Tank Bund Road

Sankey Tank Bund Road that connects Malleswaram 18th cross and Sadashivanagar. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

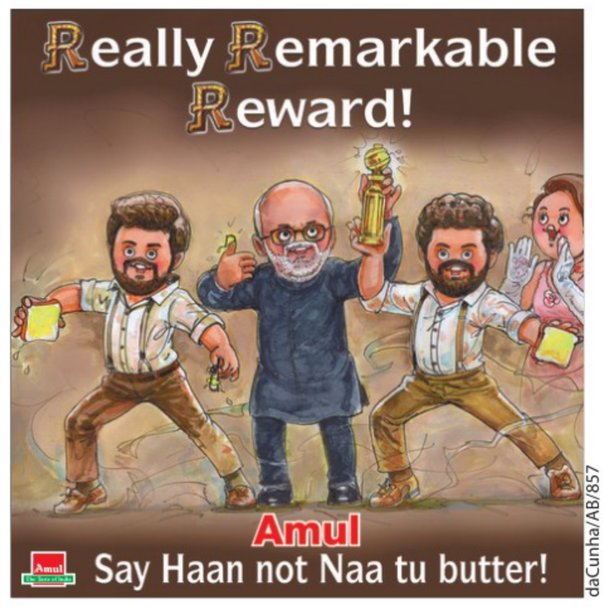
Citizens have opposed the proposed widening of Sankey Tank Bund Road and flyover from T. Chowdaiah Road to 18th Cross by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) and floated an online petition.

The petition, which garnered over 6,000 signatures as of Thursday evening, said, "Instead of solving the traffic problem, the proposed road widening and flyover project will create severe traffic jam and bottlenecks in Malleswarm and Cauvery junction and trees are more important than those projects."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Radhika Prasad from Malleswaram Social said, "Greenery and trees are the culture of Bengaluru. More than 40 decade old trees in the heart of Malleswaram will be sacrificed for the BBMP's proposed projects of Sankey Tank Bund Road widening and flyover. These proposed projects and cutting of trees will affect on the ecosystem of Malleswarm."

"According to the BBMP, the proposed flyover project will solve the traffic problem in this area. But, it is not true. The flyover project will create severe traffic jams and bottlenecks at Cauvery Junction. Most flyover projects in the city are creating the same bottleneck problem. Therefore, the BBMP should find an alternative," she argued.

The BBMP has called tenders for the long-pending Sankey Tank bund road-widening project in December, 2022. The project was first proposed in 2011. The narrow stretch of road between Bhashyam Circle and Malleswaram 18th Cross, a critical road linking Malleswaram with Sadashivanagar, will be widened by 15 metres at an estimated cost of ₹60 crore. Recently, the BBMP had proposed a flyover on the same road.



From Page One

Sinkhole appears on Brigade Road

The busy junction was partially cordoned off leading to traffic snarls in the CBD for several hours. This had a snowball effect and traffic pile up was observed across CBD area Thursday evening, especially during the evening peak hours.

Nothing to do with tunnelling work of Namma Metro

However, BMRCL insisted that the underground tunnelling work is not responsible for the sinkhole. BMRCL Managing Director Anjum Parvez said, "The tunnelling work under the road has crossed the point where the sinkhole appeared over five days ago. Moreover, the tunnel under the road is going through a granite rock, and not through the soil. There is nearly three metres of rock over the tunnel. So, it is unlikely that the tunnelling work caused the sinkhole. We will investigate this incident. As of now, we will fill the sinkhole with concrete and redo the road."

Meanwhile, a group of nearly 100 men claiming to be Kannada activists stormed the corporate office of BMRCL at Shanthinagar and ransacked the premises, accusing the corporation of compromising on safety standards.

Police rescue abducted man

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Adugodi police on Wednesday cracked a kidnap case and rescued a man who was held captive in a moving car by a gang of four.

The police chased the car for 2 km and intercepted it before rescuing the man, while the accused managed to flee. The police gave hot chase again and managed to pin down one of the accused, identified as Gopinath.

Gopinath was brought to the station for questioning, while the victim was reunited with his family. C.K. Baba, DCP, South East Division, said that efforts are on to track down the other accused, who are on the run. The incident occurred at Koramangala 100 feet road check post when the Adugodi inspector on night rounds noticed the car driving in rash manner. The police tried to stop the car by pulling the barricade on the road, but the car collided with it and sped away. While the police tried to stop it, they saw a man crying and shouting for help, saying "Kapadi, kapadi."

Inspector Manjunath swung into action along with his team and intercepted the car near the water tank. A probe so far revealed that the gang had abducted the man, identified as Touhid, over a financial row three days ago and demanded a ransom of ₹60,000 from his family. Even though Touhid's mother managed to arrange ₹35,000 and gave it to the accused, they continued to keep Touhid in their custody demanding the rest of the money. The accused had even threatened to kill Touhid if they filed a complaint with the police.

ED arrests realtor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials on Thursday arrested Mahesh B. Ojha, head of Karan Group of Builders and Developers, in Mumbai, in a fraud and cheating case involving over ₹500 crore, following a complaint.

Ojha was produced before a special PMLA court here and taken into custody. According to a release, multiple FIRs charging him with fraud and cheating on the pretext of investment in real estate projects have been filed. Probe revealed that the complainant had invested ₹526 crore in different real estate projects.

The ED said it had learnt that out of the total investment of ₹526 crore made by the complainant, ₹121.5 crore was invested in a real estate project undertaken by Karan Group Builders and Developers.

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Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JAN. 13		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:11
RISE	23:21	SET 11:01
SATURDAY, JAN. 14		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:12
RISE	00:00	SET 11:37
SUNDAY, JAN. 15		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:12
RISE	00:09	SET 12:14

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	18
Mysuru	30	13
Bengaluru	30	14

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be very cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable and humid. Night will be cool with haze.

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THE HINDU
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Minors caught

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an effort to enforce discipline and stop bikers from performing stunts on the road, the West Division traffic police launched a special drive to keep an eye on violators. On Monday, the police caught four minor boys who were performing stunts on NICE Road and Outer Ring Road.

Kuldeep Kumar Jain, DCP, West Traffic Division, said that as the offenders are minors, their parents have been summoned and fined. Cases under various sections of the Security Act have been booked and their bikes seized.

Performing stunts not only amounts to violation of traffic rules and not following road discipline, but also endangers the lives of other, an officer said.

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Calls received at the police control room

	Calls for intervention	Blank calls	Enquiry	Calls disconnected at IVR	Calls received at IVR	Percentage of calls for intervention %
2020	2,57,865	3,40,809	6,41,396	3,97,12,646	4,09,52,716	0.629
2021	2,19,735	8,37,117	7,55,007	5,35,12,252	5,53,24,112	0.397
2022	2,59,360	8,83,521	7,27,542	7,76,96,135	7,95,66,558	0.325

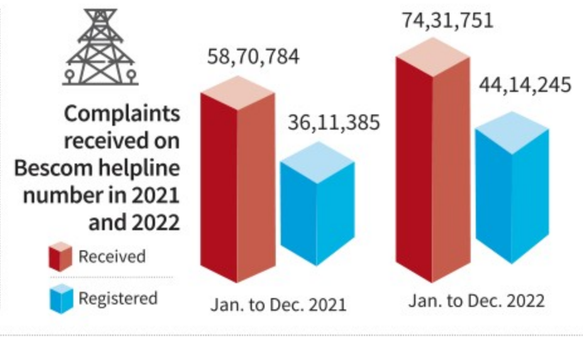


ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

How helpful are helplines?

Though authorities have set up phone numbers that citizens can call in times of emergency, in reality they are beset with various problems, ranging from technical to logistics, defeating the very purpose of having such faciltities

Panic button in phone triggers unintentional calls, forcing police to rely on IVRS for 112

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Imagine you are in an emergency, and you call the police on their helpline number 112. You hear a 21-second Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) that will eventually guide you to a responder. In the process, precious time is being lost in case of an emergency. Arun Kumar N.T. filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court of Karnataka seeking directions to the State police to remove the IVRS.

But the police argue that IVRS is necessary to filter out misdirected and unintentional calls, probably resulting from an April 22, 2016, order from the Department of Telecommunication, Government of India, that mandated "power on/ off button when short pressed thrice in quick succession" should act as a panic button and trigger a call to 112 in the local jurisdiction, in all smart phones.

While many are unaware of the panic button feature in phones, it's triggering lakhs of unintentional calls every day to the 112 control room. Often, children playing with phones, or when the phone is kept in the pocket, the power button gets pressed triggering calls.

Role of IVRS

Sample this: a total of 7.95 crore calls landed at the IVRS for 112 in Bengaluru in 2022, of which 7.76 crore calls got disconnected at the IVRS level. There were 8.83 lakh blank calls, which were also mostly triggered by the panic button, but went through the IVRS to a responder. While 7.27 lakh calls were regarding enquiries for some information, in only 2.59 lakh calls did the callers seek police intervention.

"On an average, we get around a maximum of 2,750 genuine calls – both seeking our intervention and enquiry calls – per day in Bengaluru. But the panic button feature triggers lakhs of unintentional calls, and to filter them out we have installed IVRS. Only less than 1% are genuine calls where we need to intervene," said K. Ramarajan, DCP (Command Centre), Bengaluru City Police.

Review of DoT policy

"We think there needs to be a review of the DoT policy in light of the ground reality. We can remove the IVRS and allow callers to directly speak to the responders if the barrage of unintentional calls stops. That will help the public also to access help better and faster in case of an emergency," he said.

Over 140 responders work in the Bengaluru City Police Control Room in three shifts. Any call that lands at the control room takes a maximum of 14 minutes for the nearest Hoysala to reach the spot. A responder will receive the call within three rings and will collect all the necessary details within three minutes and assign it to the Hoysala control room, if there is a need for intervention. The complaint is then assigned to the nearest Hoysala van in two minutes, and the van has to reach the spot and intervene within a maximum of nine minutes.

Helpline numbers

Bescom
1912
On WhatsApp
- South circle 8277884011
- West circle 8277884012
- East circle 8277884013
- North circle 8277884014

Police control room
112

BBMP
080-22660000
On WhatsApp
- 9480685700

BWSSB
1916

Fire & emergency services
101

Health
- Arogya Kavacha ambulance service 108
- Child helpline - 1098
- BBMP COVID-19 treatment and vaccination - 1533
- CoWIN helpline 1075

Last year, there were 8.83 lakh blank calls, which were also mostly triggered by the panic button, but went through the IVRS to a responder. K. MURALI KUMAR

Karnataka's 104 Arogya Sahayavani out of service since February last year

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The State's 104 Arogya Sahayavani, a health information helpline connected to a call centre to provide non-emergency basic medical advice, has been out of service since February 15, 2022.

The 24-hour helpline service, a real-time mechanism run by the State Health Department in association with Piramal Swasthya Management Research Institute (PSMRI), was launched in June 2013.

The initial three-year contract period of PSMRI was extended and the service continued till February 15, 2022. Subsequently, the first tender that was called did not materialise. Tenders were floated again for the second time.

But although the tender has been accepted, the project is yet to take off. The file is now with the Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar, sources said.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said the tender process has been completed. "The tender of the highest bidder has been accepted and it is at the stage of issuing the letter of acceptance," the Commissioner said.

Psychological counselling

The helpline was set up to provide personalised assistance to citizens on various aspects such as telemedical consultation, health education, information about government schemes and healthcare services, grievance redressal and query resolution.

It also provided confidential medical and psychological counselling for stress, depression, anxiety, suicidal tendencies and post-trauma recovery.

In addition, it provided information on healthcare service delivery and service providers such as a doctor, specialist, field healthcare workers (ASHAs ANMs) and healthcare centres such as a hospital/clinic, diagnostic centres and blood banks.

The 24-hour helpline service was launched in June 2013. FILE PHOTO

Call volume

From 10,000 calls per day in the first year, the volume of calls attended by around 700 counsellors in the helpline had increased to nearly 25,000 a day.

Following an increased call volume at the Hubballi centre, a second 100-seater call centre for 104 was set up in Bengaluru in February, 2018. Since its inception, the helpline service has attended to over four crore calls. This is apart from outbound calls made by the counsellors for Mother and Child Tracking and other follow up calls.

This helpline, along with 14410 Apthamitra, acted as main COVID helplines for people. Over 70% of the calls made to the helpline during the pandemic were due to anxiety. Now, Apthamitra has also been disbanded and the Commissioner said there are no plans to resume the service following the waning of COVID.

Technical issues , lack of awareness plague civic body's helplines

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Lavanya Shankar, an IT employee residing in Vidyaranyapura, was happy to know she could complain about potholes on a new mobile application launched by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), "FixMyStreet". However, while using it, she realised it had bugs, and couldn't upload photos of potholes.

"The concept is good and we need such apps, but BBMP has to improve the app performance. I couldn't upload the photos. Hence, I couldn't raise a complaint," she said.

The BBMP failed to launch the app on the scheduled date of January 1, and they did so on January 7, after *The Hindu* reported about the missed deadline.

How it works

The application is available on both the Android app store and Apple store, and it has an option of "road repair" tab.

"Once a complaint about pothole has been reported on the app, it has to be certified by the jurisdictional assistant engineer. The work order then gets generated automatically. In the case of major roads, it will go to the 'Python' contractor who has been entrusted with the maintenance of 182 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads. For other stretches, the work order is sent to the hot mix plant," said a BBMP official.

The application was earlier launched in 2017, but was shut down in 2019 due to technical issues. The glitches have been fixed now, said BBMP officials.

BBMP control room

The BBMP has a dedicated 24/7 control room at its head office in N.R. Square which receives complaints from citizens daily.

There are misconceptions about what type of complaints can be reported to the control room. "We didn't know BBMP control room number can be used for complaining about civic issues. I called them only to report rain-related issues," said Prashanth Patil, a member of MHR Layout Residents Welfare Association, Dasarahalli.

BBMP officials acknowledged the lack of awareness about the control room, and said steps would be taken to publicise the numbers widely. "We have been telling about control room numbers on the BBMP social media handles and in future we will start doing it more," an offical said.

With the delimitation of wards, thereby increasing their number, BBMP officials said they would be setting up a centralised control room for all wards and zones. "As of now, we don't have any plans to increase the number of control rooms," the official said.

BWSSB helpline

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has a 24/7 helpline number, 1916, for the customers.

Apart from this, the board is also conducting 'Water Adalat' in different parts of the city to settle grievances related to billing, delay in supply, sanitary connections and delay in conversion of domestic connections.

The BWSSB is also active on Twitter addressing the customer grievances posted on the microblogging platform.

On FixMyStreet app, citizens can post complaints about potholes and upload photos. K. MURALI KUMAR

Rain dampens Bescom customer service, say consumers

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Uninterrupted power supply is still a long way off for the IT capital. On any given day, one or the other locality in the city has electricity problems – a scheduled or unscheduled interruption. When it rains, problems peak. Citizens then find that it is almost impossible to get any kind of service despite raising complaints on the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom)'s 24x7 helpline, 1912, and on its recently launched WhatsApp helpline number.

WhatsApp numbers

In May 2022, Bescom launched WhatsApp numbers for eight divisions, out of which four are dedicated to the four circles in Bengaluru. Though there is immediate response on these numbers, consumers report that redirection to a lineman who can actually solve the problem is usually a rarity on rainy days.

WhatsApp helplines received 15,000 complaints between May and December in 2022 K. MURALI KUMAR

Same is the case even with 1912, and on busy days, the lines are jammed. Consumers, however, are somewhat happy that they receive redressal sooner now when compared to the past. "On normal days, their response time is good and it has improved a lot in the last decade or so. As there would usually be a flood of calls on rainy days, it is difficult for them to respond quickly.

"However, to address such problems, they could maybe establish service stations in every locality. When a complaint is registered, a technician can immediately go to the spot and take care of the problem," suggested. M.G. Prabhakar, former member of the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) advisory committee.

Lack of accountability

Data provided by Bescom shows that WhatsApp helplines received 15,000 complaints between May and December in 2022, with the highest number being received in June (2,559) and August (2,215). While most of these complaints had been closed, 257 were pending. The other helpline, 1912, while receiving 5-6 lakh complaints on an average every month, received 7,79,298 calls in the rainy month of May. Consumers are also of the opinion that the lack of accountability often makes authorities lax about providing efficient redressal. A monitory body is essential for a "power consumers' redressal watch," they said.

"We do not have a benchmark to analyse the effectiveness of the complaint handling system. Something should be done about this at the policy level. When we checked in rural areas, 85% people did not know that there is a helpline.

"Even on the consumer grievance redressal forum (where longterm complaints are filed), there are hardly any complaints due to lack of awareness. Similarly, there is also a deficit of trust in the systems among consumers. This trust should be reinstated by Bescom through their work," said Y.G. Muralidharan, consumer rights expert.

Nature's bounty Repurpose and reuse are the key words behind packaging Sankaranti goodies this year, Lalitha Sastry (below). THE HINDU, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

How green is my ellu-bella?

An essential part of Sankranti, the sesame, groundnut, jaggery mixture comes in eco-friendly packaging

Ranjani Govind

Makara Sankranti marks the beginning of the new year when the sun moves to Capricorn. The festival is celebrated to give thanks for the bountiful harvest.

"Indian festivals are celebrated both according to lunar and solar cycles, but Sankranti is the only festival celebrated throughout India under different names according to the solar cycle of the Hindu calendar," says

Vishalakshi Padmanabhan of Buffalo Back Collective, which deals with sustainable farm produce. Buffalo Back has put together *ellu-bella* with organic ingredients slow roasted and mixed in small batches.

Typically, *ellu-bella* comprises sesame seeds, roasted groundnut, jaggery and coconut slivers cut into small bits, fried gram, sugar balls and *jeerige mithai* (candied cumin seeds).

Buffalo Back has replaced the colourful *sakre-acchu* (moulded sugar candy) that usually accompanies *ellu-bella* with jaggery. And in keeping with the Sankranti adage – *ellu bella tindu olle maataadi* (eat good, speak good) the Collective sends sweet notes with every order on request.

"Dishes at festivals are created to deal with seasonal changes," says dietician Sudha Hegde.

"There is a significance for each food item in the Sankranti celebration. Sesame keeps the body warm, jaggery aids digestion, coconut helps metabolism, while the peanuts and roasted gram bring in proteins. Every item in *ellu-bella* serves to boost immunity."

The *ellu-bella* at Srinivasa Condiments or Subbamma Angadi in Gandhi Bazaar is popular as always. "It is prepared by needy women and we charge ₹260 per kilo. This year we began online orders and the response has been great," says Raghavendra Karthik, son of KV Anantha Rao, and the eponymous Subbamma's grandson.

I started making Baananthi lehya, Cobri-khaara and Antinunde. Today, my children have taken my cooking to the next level

LALITHA SASTRY

Necessity, the mother of re-invention

Over the years, enterprising women have taken the sustainable route to procuring, preparing and packaging *ellu-bella* and *sakre acchu*.

Online orders also have contributed to the green sheen. MS Aruna Rao of Girinagar began Bellikirana Creations to make eco-friendly pouches, boxes and bags for Sankranti seven years ago, after noticing the unending use of plastic.

"The number of boxes and covers ran into lakhs every year," says Aruna. "My focus was to make everyone's Sankranti plastic-free."

Aruna quit electrical engineering and took up a crafts-based business. "In 2016, I started with cotton pouches. I have now added baskets, boxes and trays made from *korai* grass and palm leaf. These are eco-friendly, easy to use and long-lasting. I source them from coastal and river villages of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. It is a package with numerous options that can be customised," she says, adding that her bags come with couplets in Kannada and English.

Call 8971800223 for orders.

Dream come true

Born in Maagala village in Bellary district, Lalitha Sastry was brought up in a household of educationists and dramatists. The five-mile walk to school though made it difficult to balance domestic responsibilities with her education. Despite excelling in sports and studies, after passing out from Class VIII, Lalitha began helping her grandmother Yedhalli Sabavva, cook festive meals at the nearby Narasimha temple. Soon enough, she was making big batches of *sajji roti (bajra), jolada roti (jowar), besan laddu,* and *huli pudi*.

While Lalitha's passion for cooking and resulting praise has remained undiminished over the last four decades, she wanted to reach out to more.

The 59-year-old says, "This year's Sankranti is extra special as we flag-off Lalli's Foodz - Temple of Flavours officially with *ellu-bella, sakre-achchu* and *shenga* (peanut) *holige*."

Her daughter Kavya, a graphic designer, says online orders are packed in sugarcane waste bagasse containers, while smaller quantities come in sturdy paper cups. *Ellu-bella* costs ₹408 per kg. *Orders can be placed on 8904772324.*

Inclusivity on wheels

The food truck hopes to provide employment and visibility to members of the LGBTQIA+ community

Love all Pride Cafe food trucks will soon be seen around the city. KSL

Gizelle Gina D'Silva

This week, food became the language of love and a means of empowerment in Bengaluru with the launch of Pride Cafe, a food truck, at WeWork Galaxy in Residency Road in an effort to provide employment and visibility to members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

An initiative by the Solidarity Foundation in partnership with WeWork, Amadeus and Agape Hospitality Consultants, the cafe aims to offer breakfast, lunch and snacks to those working and passing by WeWork Galaxy.

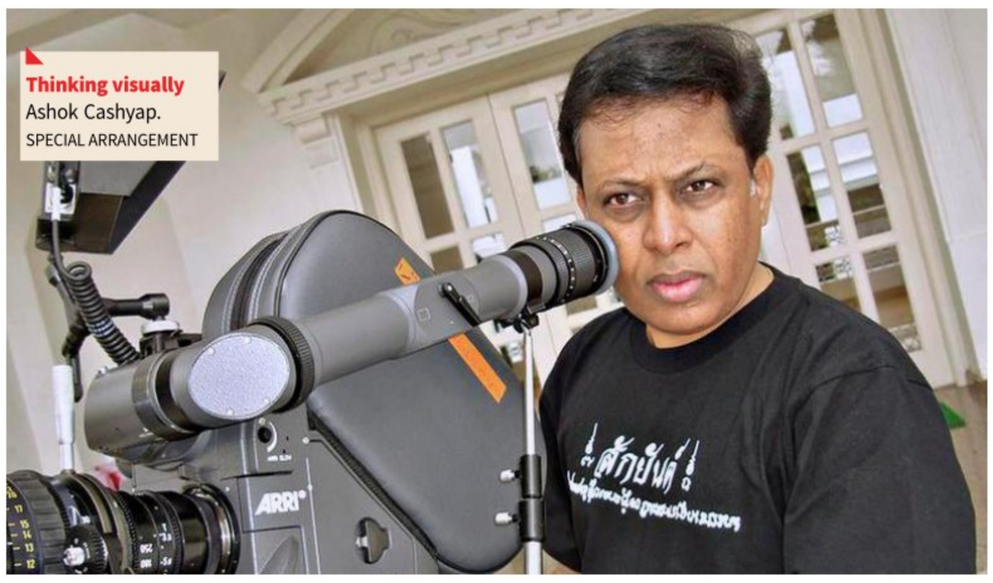
Shubha Chako, executive director at Solidarity Foundation said, "While listening to stories of people from the LBGTQIA+ community, we realised that food is a bridge to love. The food truck will help people understand the idea of gender inclusivity and relate to those who feel they could not open up about their queer identity in society."

The food truck employs 12 members, some of whom have received culinary training from Agape Hospitality's centre at Lingarajapuram. Going forward, the cafe employees will also receive training in English speaking, mental health and hospitality skills. The truck will operate from 10am to 6pm through the week. The menu includes *poha*, classic French toast, sandwiches, *roti* and *dal makhani*.

"The options in our menu range from Indian to Continental, and our main focus is to serve young working individuals. The food is quick to eat and easy to carry, while also being affordable," said Mario Pradeep, head chef at the Pride Café.

Eventually, the Pride Café will also be stationed at events and other IT parks in the city. "This is our first initiative and Pride Café shows that society is now open for social innovation," Shubha added.

Operating from 10am to 6pm through the week, the menu includes poha, French toast, sandwiches, roti and dal makhani



Thinking visually Ashok Cashyap. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

*friday*Review

The writer-director-cinematographer dreams big for Kannada cinema as the Chairman of Karnataka Film Academy

Painting a bright future

Shilpa Anandraj
shilpa.anandraj@thehindu.co.in

Ashok Cashyap's appointment as the Chairman of Karnataka Film Academy has given cause for the industry to celebrate as it is rare for a cinematographer to be chosen to helm the Academy.

Ashok is not only one of the most acclaimed cinematographers of the Kannada film industry, but also a writer, director and a producer, comfortable with the large and small screen.

As chairman, he dreams big. "I have to go ahead of my predecessors. As a cinematographer, I understand cinema from ground up and hope to use my experience to cater to the needs of the fraternity," says Ashok who won the Karnataka State Award for cinematography for *Shaapa*.

Ashok wishes to spread awareness of the different aspects of filmmaking in rural areas. "I'd like to get youngsters interested in film through workshops and symposiums."

Ashok, whose name is synonymous with blockbusters including *Shh!, Karulina Koogu, Ulta Pulta* and *Uppi 2,* is now busy with the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes). "BIFFes, this year too, will have seminars, talks and world cinema. We plan to screen many more films from across the globe."

Post BIFFes, the aim, Ashok says is to provide film literacy to every nook and corner of Karnataka. "We are also working on a non-fiction short film festival at the district level."

Living at a time where technology and digital platforms thrive, is an asset to both the audience and filmmmakers, according to Ashok.

"Earlier, film distribution was limited to certain people, but today, we have service providers who have become distributors themselves. These changes are great for small producers as their options have expanded. Technology is available and the contact too comes on a one-to-one basis. The platforms need content and a filmaker, a platform. So it works both ways."

Keeping abreast of every new development in his or her field is essential, says Ashok. "Besides technical knowledge one also should know about film rights and the value of his/her content. For instance, earlier, buses would screen pirated versions of films during a long-distance trip. This can no longer happen unless they buy the travel rights."

A cinematographer is like a painter, who brings the story to life on screen, believes Ashok. "Kannada films have done well in the past couple of years and we need to work collectively to take it to the next level."

STEPOUT

The beats of the harvest

It is time to welcome the harvest with a Lohri celebration complete with *dhol*, Punjabi beats and music. After you work up an appetite, sit down to a lavish meal by the traditional bonfire.

The festival will be celebrated on January 13, 7pm at Gold Rush Brews, KR Puram. Call 9845920832.

Sankranti Oota

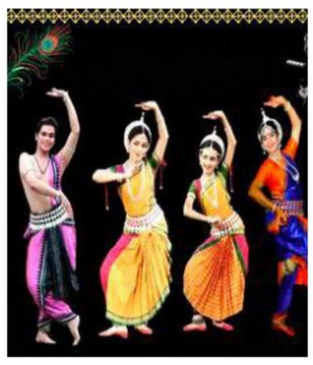
Oota Bengaluru will showcase the best of Karnataka's vegetarian recipes as part of Sankranti celebrations. Timings are from 12pm to 3pm as this meal is available only for lunch.

The menu will be on from January 13 to 15 at Oota Bengaluru, Whitefield. Call 8880233322 for details.

Dance of Krishna

Debnrutyam Studio and Ekaagra Svarasa Academy will present a dance recital titled *Krishna Anubhuti.* The dance will depict various aspects of Krishna –– his compassion, as a prankster, a model lover, and as a supreme being.

The dance will be staged on January 15, 7.30pm at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield. Tickets on BookMyShow



ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ಸವ
Bengaluru Utsava
Grand Flea Market
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
Kumara Krupa Road, Bengaluru
Date: 6th Jan 2023, Friday
to
15th Jan 2023, Sunday
Timing: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
(Art, Craft, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition)
LAST 3 DAYS
Entry Free!
Art & Craft | Handicraft | Clothing
Fashion Accessories | Home Decor & More
FOOD
(10 Days Exhibition)
100+ Stalls
Sankranti Shopping Carnival | Also Open on all Sunday's
Visit & Shop For 100+ Stalls | Live Performance | Much More..!
Home Decors | Handmade Paintings | Lampshades | Ceramic Pots |Handlooms & Handicrafts | Curtains | Carpets | Mats | Bags | Khadi Kurtas | Silks Saree | Sarees | Designer Kurtis | Bandhani Bedsheets | Designer Jewelry | Handmade Jewelry | Toys | Pots & Much more...
For Details Contact : 6364685716 / 9036658774
Entry Free..!
100+ Shopping Stalls | Live Performance | Much More!

INBRIEF

Kempe Gowda, Basaveshwara statues to be installed

Minister for Revenue R. Ashok on Thursday said foundation stones would be laid on Friday for installing statues of Bengaluru founder Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda and 12th Century social reformer Basaveshwara in front of the Vidhana Soudha, the State Secretariat, in Bengaluru.

Mr. Ashok told reporters here that the statues of Kempe Gowda and Basaveshwara would be installed between the statues of the former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the chief architect of the Indian Constitution B.R. Ambedkar. A sum of ₹8 crore had been released for the installation of the statues.

Araga meets Gujarat CM; visits forensic sciences varsity

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, who is on a two-day visit to Gujarat, on Thursday called on Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. He is in Gujarat in connection with the setting up of a forensic sciences university in Karnataka.

The State government has proposed to set up a dedicated university to offer courses in forensic sciences to boost its capabilities in gathering scientific evidence from crime scenes. Several rounds of talks have already been held with officials of the National Forensic Sciences University in Gujarat, which has come forward to aid Karnataka in setting up a similar university in the State.

Runway is ready, you need to take off, PM tells youth

Be firm with your ideas, be ready to face ridicule and opposition and they will finally be accepted, he says after inaugurating the 26th National Youth Festival

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Grand start: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurating the National Youth Festival in Hubballi on Thursday. KIRAN BAKALE

Urging the youth to work on ideas, expand them, and lead Team India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that enough ground work had been done to make it possible in the last nine years. "The run way is ready, you need to take off now," he said.

He was speaking to a large crowd of students from across the country after inaugurating the colourful 26th National Youth Festival organised with the theme 'Vikasit Yuva-Vikasit Bharat' (Developed Youth-Developed India) at the Railway Ground in Hubballi on Thursday.

He told the youth not to be deterred by sceptics. "When we came up with Swachh Bharat, Digital India, and COVID vaccine, initially they made fun of us, then opposed and finally accepted. So be firm with your ideas, be ready to face ridicule and opposition and finally they will be accepted," he said.

He called on the youth to focus on "institution and innovation" as they had to build institutions along with achieving personal excellence through their innovative ideas.

The Prime Minister – who began his speech in Kannada by taking the names of Moorusavir Mutt and Siddharoodh Mutt (both revered by the Lingayat-Veerashaiva community) and referring to Hubballi as the land of Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna –emphasised the role of youth in making the 21st century "the century of India". Mr. Modi said that 'Digital India' had opened up several avenues before the youth.

Referring to Swami Vivekananda's tour of Karnataka and the Mysuru king's contribution in his voyage to the Chicago convention, he said it was an example of the concept of 'one nation, great nation', which was now being pursued by the government.

Drawing the attention of the youth towards the emerging fields of artificial intelligence, machine learning, cyber security, and data science, he called on them to learn new skills to exploit opportunities. The government had come up with the NEP with focus on making the youth "future-ready", he said.

Cooperative federalism

Likening the National Youth Festival as an example of cooperative federalism, the Prime Minister asked the youth to remember that even in competition, there was cooperation.

"Ultimately whoever may win in the National Youth Festival, it will be the victory of India," he said.

Earlier, the Prime Minister also remembered Siddeshwar Swami, who passed away recently, praised the valour of Chennamma and Rayanna, and paid tribute to the legends of Hindustani music from Dharwad and eminent litterateurs of the region.

Illegal mining case: 'CBI did not pursue nod granted in 2015 to attach properties'

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

G. Janardhana Reddy

The State government on Thursday told the High Court of Karnataka that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had failed to pursue before the Special Court the approval granted way back in 2015 to seek attachment of properties worth over ₹65.05 crore belonging to the former Minister G. Janardhana Reddy in illegal mining case.

Additional Advocate-General Dhyan Chinnappa, appearing for the State government, told the High Court that the CBI, which had not pursued the case for attachment of those properties for seven years, was now trying to pass the buck on the State government for not considering an application for four months to attach additional properties worth around ₹19.14 crore.

The CBI had shielded the accused for seven years as its application for attachment of properties made in 2015 was given a number before the Special Court only in March 2022, the State has alleged.

Approval granted

Meanwhile, the government told the court that on January 12 it granted approval to the CBI to file an application before the Special Court to seek attachment of additional properties of Mr. Reddy, his wife, and companies belonging to him and others.

These submissions were made during the hearing of a petition filed by the CBI, which had sought a direction to the State government to grant approval for seeking an order from the Special Court to attach additional properties worth ₹19.14 crore.

The CBI had said that State government had not acted on its August 30, 2022, request for approval while complaining that the accused were making "hectic efforts" to sell the properties.

After seven years

"For seven years your application was not even numbered? You have not pursued the matter at all... How can you justify seven years' delay? ... Now you complain on the State government," Justice M. Nagaprasanna told the CBI's Special Public Prosecutor.

Meanwhile, the High Court disposed of the CBI's petition as the State government has granted approval for the process of attaching additional properties. However, the High Court said its earlier observations against the State government need to be expunged in view of the delay by the CBI to pursue earlier approval.

Also, the court directed the CBI to pursue the case before the Special Court and take it to a logical end, and not to wake up from slumber and pursue the matter after seven years.

State's proposed tableau for Republic Day shortlisted

A model of Karnataka's tableau on the theme related to women's empowerment.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre on Thursday shortlisted the tableau of the Karnataka government for participation in the Republic Day parade in the national capital

"I am directed to inform you that the tableau proposal of the State government of Karnataka has been shortlisted by the government for participation in the Republic Day parade, 2023," the Defence Ministry said in a notification addressed to the Chief Secretary of Karnataka. It said activities for fabrication of the tableau should commence at the Rashtriya Rangshala Camp, Delhi, immediately and it should be ready by January 19. The notification said no logos or writing would be permitted on the tableau. The proposed tableau would be on the theme related to women's empowerment.

Karnataka has been showcasing its culture and heritage in tableaux in 13 consecutive Republic Day parades. The State's tableau themed 'the cradle of traditional handicrafts' was adjudged the second best last year.

Criticism

Following reports in a section of the media that the Centre had rejected Karnataka's proposal, the former Chief Minister and Congress leader Siddaramaiah had lashed out at Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai over the exclusion of the tableau showcasing the State's culture.

Liquor trade body upset over proposal to post excise inspectors as depot managers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The move of the State government to hand over the responsibility of managing depots of Karnataka State Breweries Corporation Ltd. (KSBCL) to Excise Department officials has been opposed by the liquor trade body, arguing that it would only increase corruption.

Earlier last week, the Finance Department approved the proposal to scrap the posts of the KSBCL depot manager and post excise officials. It approved upgrading 25 posts of excise inspector to deputy superintendent of excise, and post them as depot managers. The Excise Department has proposed the changes citing that it could save the department about ₹2.5 crore annually, and address the shortage of manpower.

"The KSBCL that supplies liquor to all liquor vending businesses is also a liquor licence holder and excise officials have the power to inspect the KSBCL depots. How can those with powers of inspection be deputed to manage the depots? Is it not a conflict of interest?" asked B. Govindaraj Hedge, general secretary of the Federation of Wine Merchants Association Karnataka. "If there is a shortage of manpower in the KSBCL, officials from other departments can be deputed. Excise officials are there to regulate the excise laws and not licence holders," he argued. In a letter to the Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Excise Minister Gopalaiah, the federation has expressed its reservation over such postings, and feared that it could lead to large-scale corruption by excise officials posted in the depots.

Applications invited

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore University has invited applications from eligible and experienced candidates for the posts of Assistant Librarian (Temporary) for the academic year 2022-23 for one year. For details, visit www.bangaloreuniversity.ac.in/

Jathas conclude

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Samaj Parivartan Sathyagraha Jathas, jointly organised by Citizens for Democracy, Janandolan Maha Maitri, Society for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, Jana Tantra Prayog Shale, and Karnataka Dalit Sanghatanegala Okkoota, which commenced from four places across the State on January 2, concluded on Wednesday at Freedom Park here.

H.N. Nagamohan Das, retired judge of the Karnataka High Court, hailed the jathas for creating awareness on issues being faced by farmers, Dalits, farm labourers, youth, and women owing to pro-corporate and anti-farmer policies of the Union government. S.R. Hiremath of Citizens for Democracy, said the purpose of the jathas was to bring about systemic change through political, social, economic, and cultural policy.

Millet Gallery inaugurated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Regional Office, Bengaluru, organised the inaugural programme of Millet Gallery on Wednesday. It was inaugurated by APEDA chairman M. Angamuthu.

According to a press release, the gallery showcases innovative and value-added millet and millet-based products which are being exported to various global destinations.

Authority members and its senior officials also participated in the event, the release stated.

Assembly polls: 109 women aspiring for Congress ticket

Priyanka Gandhi to inaugurate party women members' convention in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 109 women have submitted applications seeking the ticket to contest the Karnataka Legislative Assembly elections.

The former Minister and Congress leader Umashree told presspersons that the highest number of women have sought the ticket to contest the Assembly elections so far and the party should field more women this time.

In all, 1,350 aspirants have filed applications seeking the Congress ticket.

Ms. Umashree said AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra would inaugurate the Congress women members' convention 'Na Nayaki' being organised on January 16 in Bengaluru. Nearly a lakh women workers would be mobilised for the event, she said.

SAINIK SCHOOL KORUKONDA
An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Defence, Government of India
Dist. Vizianagaram (A.P) Pin : 535214
Phone : 08922-246150, Fax : 08922-246150
Website : www.sainikschoolkorukonda.org

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following posts:-
(i) 1- TGT in Social Science(ST Category)
(ii) LDC (Contractual-1) for one Year(UR Category).

Applications in (prescribed format) complete in all respects along with DD must reach Principal, Sainik School Korukonda on or before 06 February 2023. Publication of the advertisement in the daily News Paper (The Hindu & Sakshi). School will not be responsible for postal delay. TA/DA will not be paid to the candidates shortlisted and called for written test, Skill/Proficiency test/Class Demonstration and Interview. **The School Authority reserves the rights to CANCEL the employment process at any time. For details of the advertisement please log on to our school website.**

Principal,
Sainik School Korukonda

UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE
Office of the Registrar (Evaluation)
Crawford Hall, Mysore - 570005
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪವಿ/7.1/103ಫ/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar (Evaluation) University of Mysore invites tender from eligible bidders for the supply of Approximately 450 Gold Medals for 103rd Annual Convocation. The tender indents are as follows:
MU/EB/Gold Medal/2022-23/IND-848
The Last date for Submission is 25-01-2023 for more details bidders may visit http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in for more clarification bidders may contact 0821-2419213/450 during office hours.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/871/2022-23 Sd/- Registrar (Evaluation)

GOVERNEMENT OF KARANTAKA
DISTRICT HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT, BALLARI.
DISTRICT SURVEILLANCE UNIT, BALLARI
O/o The District Surveillance Officer, District Hospital Premises, Dr.Rajkumar, Road, Ballari-583101. Contact No. +91 80501 34236 / e-Mail ID: dsubellary@gmail.com

No.DSOB/EQUIPS&LABLOGIS&CONSUM/RC/VHC/03/2022-23/Call-2. Date : 11.01.2023.

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tender is invited from eligible bidders for **Supply of EQUIPMENTS, LAB LOGISTICS & CONSUMABLES TO VARIOUS HEALTH INSTITUIONS OF DH&FWS, BALLARI UNDER NFDS FUND** in a two cover bid system, the details of the same can be viewed from e-procurement portalof government of Karnataka. http://e-proc.karnataka.gov.in Last date and time for receipt of E-tender is on dated **23-01-2023 at 17:00 PM** Tender Amount is **Rs.186.00 Lakhs.**

Tender Indent No. **TENDER INDENT No.DHFWS/2022-23/IND5984/CALL-2.**

Sd/- Dist Surveillance Officer, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/807/MCA/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V.Ramannagara Division, 8th Cross, 12th A Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru - 560 038.

No: EE/CVR/E-Proc/27/2022-23 Date: 10.01.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - 2nd Call
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/ Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Drilling of Borewell in Ward No.122-New Thippasandra (Indent No: 55548) **(SC Category)**	**20.00**	25,000/-
2	Drilling of Borewell in Ward No. 123-Jalakanteshwara Nagara. (Indent No:55610) **(Un-Reserved Category)**	**20.00**	50,000/-

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal of GOK from **11.01.2023 onwards.** (2) Last date for uploading the Filled Proposals: **18.01.2023 upto 16:30 hrs.** (3) Date of opening of Financial Proposals: **19.01.2023 after 16:30 hrs.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
C.V. Raman Nagara Division, BBMP

INBRIEF

Lakshadweep MP, 3 others file appeal against conviction

Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal and three others on Thursday filed an appeal before the Kerala High Court challenging the Kavaratti Sessions Court order sentencing them to 10-year rigorous imprisonment in a case relating to an attempt to murder Mohammed Salih, son-in-law of former Union Minister P.M. Sayeed, during the 2009 Lok Sabha elections. The convicted MP and others contended in their appeal that the sessions court judgment was against facts and evidence. The evidence was "partisan" without any corroboration. The appeal pointed out that the weapons allegedly used were not recovered. Meanwhile, the lawmaker has been lodged in the first block of the Kannur Central Jail.

Amid stand-off, Tamil Nadu govt. apprises President

Delegation led by Law Minister submits memorandum to Murmu; its contents were not disclosed

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

Amid the intense tussle between the ruling DMK and Governor R.N. Ravi, the Tamil Nadu government on Thursday apprised President Droupadi Murmu of the issue and submitted a memorandum. But its contents were not disclosed immediately.

DMK Parliamentary Party leader T.R. Baalu told reporters in Delhi that Tamil Nadu Law Minister S. Regupathy led a delegation and handed over to the President what Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had "written".

But Mr. Baalu repeatedly insisted that the contents of the communication were only known to the Chief Minister. It was submitted to the President in a sealed cover, he added.

A Tamil Nadu government delegation handing over a memorandum to President Droupadi Murmu.

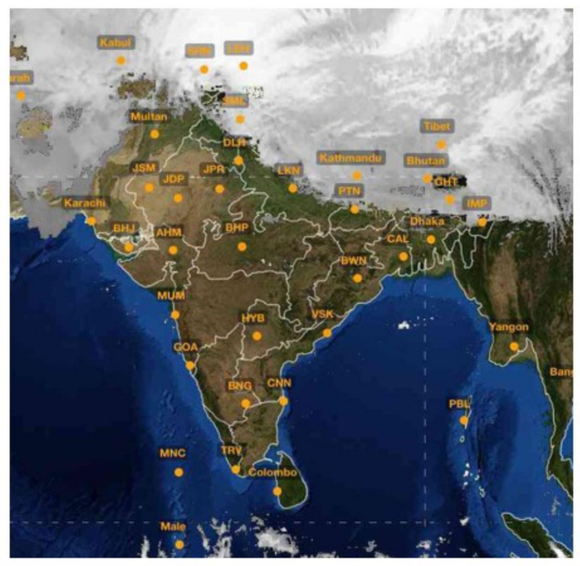
In his brief interaction in Tamil with reporters, Mr. Baalu, flanked by Mr. Regupathy and Lok Sabha member A. Raja, refused to divulge the contents of the letter; he kept saying that it was on behalf of the State government and was handed over by the Law Minister. He said it could be "presumed" that the issues concerning the Governor and his "departure from traditions" could have been included in it, he said.

"We have told the President to go through [the memorandum] and take appropriate action as you [she] may deem fit," he said.

Mr. Ravi deviating from his customary address to the Assembly on Monday and Mr. Stalin piloting a resolution against it had further strained the relations between the government and the Raj Bhavan which have been at loggerheads over a number of issues.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over interior Karnataka. Dense/very dense fog likely in some/isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.2	10.0	Kozhikode	—	32.7	21.6
Ahmedabad	—	29.4	17.0	Kurnool	—	33.5	16.7
Aizawl	—	—	6.8	Lucknow	—	18.1	6.8
Allahabad	—	22.3	8.8	Madurai	—	31.7	18.6
Bengaluru	—	30.1	14.2	Mangaluru	—	33.1	19.4
Bhopal	—	—	10.2	Mumbai	—	29.1	16.3
Bhubaneswar	—	29.8	15.5	Mysuru	—	30.2	10.7
Chandigarh	—	22.5	9.6	New Delhi	—	21.6	9.3
Chennai	—	30.1	20.2	Patna	—	16.0	7.3
Coimbatore	—	31.5	17.6	Port Blair	—	30.2	22.3
Dehradun	—	23.2	7.6	Puducherry	—	30.8	19.4
Gangtok	—	14.5	7.6	Pune	—	32.0	12.1
Goa	—	31.8	17.8	Raipur	—	30.6	13.2
Guwahati	—	26.1	12.0	Ranchi	—	27.2	10.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	14.0	Shillong	—	16.9	6.9
Hyderabad	—	31.1	14.9	Shimla	—	12.4	2.0
Imphal	—	23.9	8.1	Srinagar	3	7.9	-0.2
Jaipur	—	23.8	13.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.0	20.4
Kochi	—	30.0	21.4	Tiruchi	—	30.5	19.0
Kohima	—	20.0	6.2	Vijayawada	—	29.4	16.9
Kolkata	—	26.3	12.0	Visakhapatnam	—	28.4	19.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.28	..73	.36	72	89	.....
Bengaluru	...1	..44	.41	...136	...168	.....
Chennai	.20	..49	.49	...182	...120	.....
Delhi	.10	..51	.94	...433	...332	.....
Hyderabad	.21	..18	.66	...144	...139	.....
Kolkata	...7	..30	.38	...299	...177	.....
Lucknow	...9	..47	112	...315	...250	.....
Mumbai	.20	..60	.90	...320	...198	.....
Pune	..—	..—	..—	.....—	.....—	.....—
Visakhapatnam	..—	..65	.39	...243	...210	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 445 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 38

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Centre puts Neelakurinji on the list of protected plants

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) has listed Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) under Schedule III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 including it on the list of protected plants.

Those who uproot or destroy the plant will invite a fine of ₹25,000 and three years imprisonment. The cultivation of Neelakurinji and its possession is not allowed, according to the order.

Forest officials said Neelakurinji was included when the Centre expanded the earlier protected list of six plant species to 19.

A senior official said tourists in large numbers had flocked to the location in recent times when flowering of Neelakurinji was reported in a particular area.

"Destroying and uprooting of Neelakurinji plants is a major threat to the flowering areas. Normally, the Chief Wildlife Warden issues a statement to the effect that destroying Neelakurinji plants and flowers is a punishable offence under the Wildlife Protection Act and action will be taken accordingly. But it does not prevent the offence," he said.

Soothing sight: The most recent blooming of the Neelakurinji on the Kallippara hills at Santhanpara in Idukki. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

"As per the new order, the department will take action against those who uproot or destroy Neelakurinji in forest areas, protected areas, and national parks. The department will strictly implement the government order," he said.

Jomy Augustine, Neelakurinji expert and former botany professor at Pala St. Thomas College, said the plant was endemic to a small stretch in the Western Ghats from the Mangaladevi hills to the Nilgiris hills

"In the Western Ghats region, nearly 70 varieties of Neelakurinji plants have been identified. The most popular Neelakurinji is *Strobilanthes kunthiana* that blooms once in 12 years. However, some other rare varieties of Neelakurnji are also found in the Western Ghats region," he said.

Environmentalist M.N. Jayachanrdan said the Central government's decision would help protect Neelakurinji plants. "The Forest Department should ensure protection of the areas where it blooms, especially the Kallippara hills in Idukki where Neelakurinji was in bloom recently," he said.

The most recent blooming of Neelakurinji was over a vast area on the Kallippara hills at Santhanpara in Idukki. An expert team had identified six varieties of the plant across the mountains.

The Eravikulam National Park, near Munnar, is known for widespread blooming of the kurinji, with the next flowering season expected in 2030.

Three held for vandalising Vande Bharat Express in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

The Andhra Pradesh Police on Thursday arrested three persons in less than 24 hours after they allegedly vandalised the Vande Bharat Express on Wednesday evening.

The train had come to the Waltair Railway Division of the East Coast Railway (ECoR) zone for a check-up ahead of its scheduled maiden run from Secunderabad to Visakhapatnam on January 15.

The accused were handed over to the Railway Protection Force.

The CCTV footage showed that the accused pelted stones under the influence of alcohol.

AIADMK, BJP object to remark that Lord Ram is an imaginary character

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The AIADMK and its ally, the BJP, on Thursday took exception to the remark of a CPI(M) member in the Assembly that Lord Ram was an imaginary character. But they supported the resolution that the House passed, urging the Centre to implement the Sethusamudram project immediately.

"The remark that he is an imaginary character is an affront to 100 crore Hindus worldwide. He is an 'avatara purusha' [incarnation of God]," said AIADMK member Pollachi V. Jayaraman, speaking on the resolution moved by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. He said the project could be implemented if it were beneficial to people.

Pollachi V. Jayaraman

BJP floor leader Nainar Nagendran said the remark was unnecessary because Ram was worshipped as a God. "It is highly condemnable. The remark should be expunged," he said, adding that he would be happy if the project materialised and benefited the southern districts.

Both Mr. Jayaraman and Mr. Nagendran objected to the speech of CPI(M) leader Nagai V.P. Maali, who quoted Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) to reiterate his point that Ram was an imaginary character. Mr. Stalin said nobody was criticising God and faith, but only questioning the attempt, in the name of God, to stymie the project.

Mr. Nagendran said the government should factor in the project area, which is shallow, and the environmental aspects.

When Congress floor leader K. Selvaperunthagai recalled late CM Jayalalithaa's speech, accusing former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi of stalling the project in favour of the U.S. military's plans in Trincomalee, the AIADMK members raised an objection. K.A. Sengottaiyan said the issue was whether the Congress was supporting it or not. "Do not denigrate us," he said.

Former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam said Jayalalithaa changed her stand because of environmental considerations. "We should keep in mind that a storm had severely affected the area. The government should study the pros and cons of the project before going ahead," he said.

In his response to Mr. Jayaraman's suggestion that fishermen be taken into confidence, Mr. Stalin said a proper public hearing had been held.

Tharoor determined to get a foothold in Kerala politics

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Shashi Tharoor, Congress MP for Thiruvananthapuram, seems determined to continue his interactions with prominent people from different walks of life in Kerala society in an apparent bid to gain a foothold in State politics.

Just days after Mr. Tharoor expressed his willingness to be in the race for the State's Chief Minister's post, he is scheduled to meet influential Sunni and Mujahid leaders in Kozhikode on Friday. According to sources, he will interact with Syed Jifri Muthukkoya Thangal, president of the Sunni scholars' forum Samastha Kerala Jem-Iyyathul Ulama, in the morning. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the office of *Suprabhatham*, the forum's mouthpiece in Malayalam.

Shashi Tharoor

At 10.30 a.m. there is a session with T.P. Abdullakoya Madani and Hussain Madavoor, president and vice-president, respectively of the Kerala Nadvathul Mujahideen. He will interact with students of Silverhills Higher Secondary School later.

Mr. Tharoor is scheduled to meet leaders of the Wisdom Islamic Organisation, an offshoot of the Mujahid movement, at 4 p.m. The lawmaker will attend the ongoing Kerala Literature Festival on the Kozhikode beach.

The day's events will conclude with a lecture on 'The challenges to secularism' at a meeting to commemorate Congress leader E.V. Usman Koya at Kuttichira in the city.

The second leg of Mr. Tharoor's Kozhikode visit comes just less than two weeks after he inaugurated the birth anniversary celebrations of Mannath Padmanabhan, founder of the Nair Service Society.

Though mercury is sub-zero in the high ranges, IMD is yet to feel the chill in Kerala

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Though the high ranges shiver with minimum temperatures plummeting to zero and below, especially in Munnar, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is yet to feel the chill.

Despite having a record number of 101 automatic weather stations (AWS) across Kerala, the highest in the country, none of the weather stations recorded zero or sub-zero level until Thursday, while weather gauges of private agencies continue to record zero and lower temperatures in Munnar during winter.

With the mercury dropping below zero, Munnar is experiencing a cold wave-like condition for the past three days since the beginning of the winter season. Munnar recorded sub-zero temperatures at various places with Kannimala recording the lowest of -3 degrees Celsius on Wednesday. However, the data available with the IMD did not confirm mercury touching the levels in the current or the previous seasons.

Cold wave: Munnar witnessed the lowest temperature of the season, witnessing -3 degrees Celsius on Wednesday.

According to the IMD statistics, the lowest temperature for the season so far was recorded on Thursday morning at Kundala dam with the temperature dropping to 0.6 degree Celsius, followed by 0.7 degree Celsius on Wednesday, and 3.3 degrees Celsius on Tuesday.

No observatory

Even though there were 14 AWS in Idukki, the IMD had no representative observatory in the hill districts of Idukki and Wayanad. As a result, as per IMD records, the lowest average minimum temperature of Kerala was still around 13 degrees Celsius as it still calculated the average temperatures by considering the coastal and mid-land observatories only.

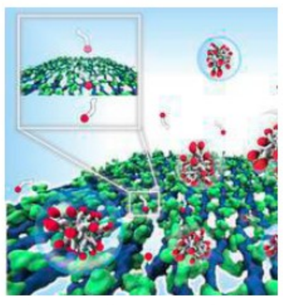
IISc develops computational models to speed up screening of antimicrobials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In two recent studies, researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Unilever have collaborated to develop computational models of bacterial cell walls that can speed up the screening of antimicrobials. Antimicrobials are molecules which can kill disease-causing bacteria.

According to IISc, each bacterial cell is enveloped by a cell membrane, which is in turn surrounded by a cell wall.

Some bacteria like Escherichia coli (E. coli) are Gram-negative, their cell walls contain a layer of peptide-sugar complexes called peptidoglycans and an outer lipid membrane. Others such as Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus) are Gram-positive; their cell walls only have several layers of peptidoglycans.



Schematic illustration of surfactant molecules interacting with the bacterial peptidoglycan cell wall.
PRADYUMN SHARMA

Antimicrobials kill bacteria either by disrupting the cell wall's lipid membrane and destabilising the peptidoglycan layer, or by translocating through the cell wall layers and disrupting the cell membrane inside.

In one study, the team created an 'atomistic model', a computer simulation that recreates the structure of the cell wall down to the level of individual atoms. They incorporated parameters such as the sizes of sugar chains in the peptidoglycans, the orientation of peptides, and the distribution of void size.

In the other study, the teams used their model to compare the movement of different surfactant molecules through the peptidoglycan layer in E. coli.

Like detergents, surfactants have a water-loving head attached to a water-avoiding tail chain. The team showed for the first time the link between the length of the tail and antimicrobial efficacy of surfactants. Surfactants like laurate with shorter chains translocated more efficiently than longer chain oleate. This was corroborated by experiments carried out by scientists in the Unilever team, which showed that shorter chain surfactants killed bacteria at a higher rate than surfactants with longer chains.

Capital stalemate

Governance is the casualty in the conflict between CM and LG in Delhi

The victory of the Aam Aadmi Party in the recent Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) elections has added a fresh backdrop to the unceasing face-off between the Lieutenant Governor of the National Capital Territory and the elected government. Several Governors, who are all too eager to further the Bharatiya Janata Party's politics, confront elected Chief Ministers from Opposition parties, but Delhi's case is unique, given the vast executive power at the command of the Lieutenant Governor. The most recent flashpoint between Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena came ahead of the January 6 election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the MCD, when Mr. Saxena appointed 10 aldermen and a BJP councillor to preside over the polls. The AAP alleged that Mr. Saxena had bypassed the tradition of appointing the senior-most councillor as the presiding officer. It has alleged that the aldermen appointed by Mr. Saxena were given voting rights in violation of the MCD Act, a question that remains unclarified. The party has pointed out that the Lieutenant Governor is ignoring the Council of Ministers and issuing orders to the bureaucracy directly on all matters, regardless of the division of power established by the Supreme Court between the two entities.

Technically, the Lieutenant Governor has executive control over only the three reserved subjects of police, public order and land; all other subjects (transferred subjects) lie with the elected government. But by virtue of being in control of the bureaucracy, and exercising the power to transfer, suspend or take any action against any employee of the Delhi government, the Lieutenant Governor's authority extends beyond those. As its earlier interventions have not settled the dispute between the Lieutenant Governor and the elected government, the Supreme Court is currently examining the question afresh. Meanwhile, the relations between the Chief Minister and the Lieutenant Governor are sliding further. The Lieutenant Governor sought a meeting with the Chief Minister, but then refused to give him time. Till October, the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister used to have weekly meetings. The Supreme Court's calls for statesmanship and wisdom by actors have not resolved the stalemate, which is seriously impacting governance in the national capital. The heightened political competition between the AAP and the BJP has worsened the situation, but the root of it all is the legal ambiguity that needs to be dispelled.

Peru in peril

The government and opposition must agree on an early date for fresh elections

With the killing of 17 civilians and one police officer on Monday amid anti-government protests, the month-long political crisis in Peru has crossed a bloody threshold and could trigger more waves of violence. The incident shows not only the barbarity of the country's security personnel in dealing with protests, but also the failure of President Dina Boluarte and of her predecessor Pedro Castillo in uniting and stabilising the country during the periods they have been in power. The crisis is the result of a power struggle between Mr. Castillo and Congress. Mr. Castillo, a former school teacher and a trade unionist, was elected President in 2021 on promises such as ensuring political stability, fighting corruption and addressing chronic inequality. But without any administrative and political experience, Mr. Castillo found it hard to negotiate the maze of Peruvian polity. As he struggled to get a grip on governance, a hostile Congress and the wealthy classes lined up against him. Corruption scandals and alleged links with criminal syndicates weakened Mr. Castillo's position in Lima. Congress voted to fire him twice, but failed to garner enough support. As a third vote was due in December last year, Mr. Castillo made the drastic announcement of dissolving Congress, which also triggered his impeachment.

But if Mr. Castillo, currently in jail, miscalculated the consequences of his decision to dissolve Parliament, his successor and legislators misjudged the leftist leader's support among the poor. Violent protests broke out in Peru's highlands demanding Mr. Castillo's restoration or early elections. Mr. Castillo called Ms. Boluarte "usurper", while his supporters said the president they voted for was not allowed to complete his legitimate term, which was to expire in 2026. At least 47 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in protests, ever since Mr. Castillo was ousted. As she came under enormous pressure, Ms. Boluarte promised to hold elections by April 2024 (pending approval from Congress), but this was dismissed by Mr. Castillo and his supporters, leaving the country in disarray. Both sides have a hand in the current crisis and should come together to find a way out. Restoring Mr. Castillo may not be practically and constitutionally possible, but Ms. Boluarte's government could release him from prison in return for peace. To end the current impasse, the government, the opposition and Congress should agree on the earliest possible date for fresh elections. Peru's political class should also be ready for broader constitutional reforms that allow the presidency and the legislature to function without confrontation.

Entering a year of uncertainty

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

Soothsayers seldom read the future correctly, especially in the realm of geopolitics. Quite a few soothsayers, however, were partially right at the beginning of 2022 when they said that uncertainty and impermanence would dictate the course of world events that year. The year did witness a spike in geopolitical challenges and risks, but no one predicted that 2022 would be a year that would put the world to test.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict, which erupted in February 2022, has become a major disruptor of the existing order. In turn, it has led to one of the largest population shifts in modern times. With hindsight, however, some of this could have been anticipated. By mid-2021, Russia had begun a major build-up around Ukraine and in December 2021, Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a list of new security guarantees it wanted from the U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), including a promise not to expand the alliance eastward.

What possibly could not have been anticipated was the extraordinary display of Ukrainian nationalism, and the swift response of the West, including NATO and the U.S., in rallying behind Ukraine and extending military and other types of cooperation. All said, even today few experts are able to fully comprehend what all this presages or what lies in the future.

Fallouts of the war

It might, therefore, be intriguing to make a comparison with the situation that prevailed during World War I, especially in 1916. Back then, the risk of escalation both horizontally and vertically was underplayed. It might be useful to heed the lessons from that time. In the present case, any escalation vertically would mean the use of nuclear weapons. Any escalation horizontally would mean opening new fronts. As in 1916, there are many 'unknowns' today. Unexpected incidents could result in dangerous outcomes. The spectre of an all-out war is ominously present.

There could be several other fallouts as well. Already, the 'proxy war' between the U.S., Europe and NATO on the one hand, and Russia on the other, is having a major fallout in the economic realm. The incessant imposition of sanctions by the West and its allies on Russia, the barring of Russian banks from SWIFT, and the freezing of Russian foreign assets have all provoked an energy crisis. This is accompanied by the soaring prices of oil, with Russia using oil as a weapon. The full extent of this is yet to be properly understood, but what it does portend is the possibility of a wider conflagration.

For India, the altered shape of the international order leaves little room for comfort

REUTERS

The ripple effects of the recent developments in Europe are evident. Some of this is occurring well beyond European shores. China-Russia relations are a case in point. China has chosen this time to deepen its strategic ties with Russia. Both countries have said their "relations are enjoying the best period in their history". Furthermore, in the light of the heightened concerns of the West over Taiwan, newer alignments are becoming evident across Asia.

Increase in defence spending

As 2023 has dawned and the arc of instability increases, what is also becoming evident is a massive increase in defence spending by almost every country – notwithstanding the economic stress they all confront. Estimated spending on defence across the globe is understood to have crossed $2 trillion in 2022, and is expected to increase substantially in 2023. European countries, such as Germany and France, have announced substantial increases in defence spending. Japan has already declared that it would raise its defence budget to 2% of its GDP, in view of the threats posed by China and North Korea. India, one of the world's leaders in defence spending, can be expected to follow suit.

Increased defence budgets are threatening to alter the nature of defence relationships and, in turn, what is propounded as strategic autonomy. New strategic alignments could unsettle the current world order, putting paid to previous beliefs in the virtue of non-adherence to a particular bloc, and ideas such as non-alignment. This year could, hence, well be the year in which many past ideas regarding economic, technological and financial autonomy may come to be altered or given up. The pace of history will accelerate in 2023, with the war in Ukraine being a major contributory factor.

A case in point may be India's reliance on Russian military equipment, which has been New Delhi's sheet anchor for many years. This could change with Russian equipment faring poorly against the latest Western weaponry in the Ukraine conflict; India may well consider looking elsewhere for future defence supplies. India's current shift from a professed policy of non-alignment to multi-alignment can possibly help it widen the arc of its defence ties. Groups such as the Quad (U.S., Australia, Japan and India) may, going forward, gain greater salience in India's defence architecture, given the increased tensions between India and China. India's defence ties with France, especially in the area of state-of-the-art defence equipment, appear set to grow in 2023.

Consequent to this, many other changes can be anticipated. Terms like strategic autonomy have already lost their meaning given the fact that the war in Ukraine has brought home to Europe and other countries the fact that Ukraine, or for that matter any other country in Europe, could not have withstood the Russian offensive without the U.S. and NATO. The same conclusion is likely to dictate the thinking of countries in Asia when confronting major "bullies" like China.

India's neighbourhood

Going ahead, and apart from Europe, China, India and parts of Asia are likely to face major headwinds. For China, controlling COVID-19 and managing the fallout of its economic downturn would be the main challenges. Consequently, it is unlikely that China would unilaterally provoke a conflict or take a provocative posture vis-à-vis its neighbours this year. Nevertheless, Taiwan and any breaching of the First Island Chain will remain China's top priority.

For India, the altered shape of the international order leaves little room for comfort. The China-Russia entente creates a dent in India's long-standing strategic relationship with Russia, the impact of which could be far reaching. Meanwhile, the absence of settled borders with both China and Pakistan will continue to plague India. Many areas along the China-India border will remain live, and incidents such as the recent one in Yangtse could be repeated, but a major conflict appears unlikely. Pakistan, mired in its own internal problems and economic difficulties, is unlikely to pose a major threat in 2023. Nevertheless, Pakistan's provocations and use of terror modules are likely to continue, leading to sporadic attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

During 2023, India will also find itself hemmed in by other problems that have emerged in South Asia. In Nepal, the new government appears tilted towards China and could become a problem. Afghanistan under the Taliban will remain an issue, but more problematic is the rising curve of terrorist activity emanating from there, spearheaded by groups such as the Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISIS-K). India's relations with both Sri Lanka and Bangladesh appear delicately poised, and will require employing deft diplomacy. This year may not, however, see major changes in India's relationship with most countries of West Asia. It may test whether India's long-term preference for a non-interventionist strategic culture is paying dividends in its neighbourhood or not.

All indications are that while terrorism will remain an omnipresent threat this year, major terror attacks may not occur. Nevertheless, the Islamic State, mainly the ISIS-K, has shown signs of revival and its role and activity in Afghanistan are the proverbial tip of the iceberg. Hence, the world may need to be on its guard in 2023.

Benjamin Netanyahu's bumpy road ahead

Khinvraj Jangid

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Jindal School of International Affairs
O.P. Jindal Global University

Benjamin Netanyahu is back as the Prime Minister of Israel and now heads the country's most far-right, religiously conservative government in history. Legislative elections were held in Israel on November 1, 2022 – the fifth general election in less than four years. The election ended predictably in Mr. Netanyahu's favour, but it took him a long time to stitch an alliance. This is because the demands of his ultra-religious and ultra-nationalist allies are radical. They include changing secular liberal school education, increasing the budget for religious schools, and exempting Yeshiva students from military service. Other religious groups, though not orthodox, demand more settlements in the West Bank and laws that can bypass the judicial review system of the Supreme Court.

Given the worry over such demands, Mr. Netanyahu clarified that Israel will not become a halachic state, will not ban LGBTQ parades, and will remain "a country of laws".

An unsteady ship

The political instability of the last few years and the growing cultural and political divisions of Israeli society are a cause of worry for the start-up and innovation industries. Israel prides itself for its innovation, entrepreneurship and high-tech industries, which have given the country the status of a 'start-up nation'. According to *The Times of Israel*, the tech sector accounts for around 25% of Israel's total income tax revenue and constitutes about 10% of the workforce. Importantly, it has strengthened Israel's diplomatic relations. In December last year, over 400 Israelis from the tech industry addressed a letter to Mr. Netanyahu warning him that his coalition's desired policies will harm the sector and drive away foreign investment.

The growing cultural and political divisions of Israeli society are a cause of worry for the start-up and innovation industries

Can Mr. Netanyahu steady the ship so that the liberal and free-market economy prospers? The outgoing Finance Minister Avigdor Lieberman had urged his successor Bezalel Smotrich to continue with a free market policy. Previously, Mr. Smotrich had suggested that laws of the Torah would dictate Israel's economic policies after he entered office. He later vowed to stick to Mr. Lieberman's approach.

We have to wait and watch what happens as Mr. Netanyahu appears to be the weaker player in this alliance. His party has only 32 seats, which means he has to involve the far-right and ultra-religious parties in the alliance in all decisions. Other more centrist, nationalist and economically liberal leaders such as Naftali Bennet, Yair Lapid and Benny Ganz refused to ally with Mr. Netanyahu saying he had breached their trust in the past.

Mr. Netanyahu, first as Finance Minister and later as Prime Minister, has been crucial in branding Israel as a nation of innovation and entrepreneurship. He is often called the liberator of the Israeli economy. It was under his leadership largely that Israel became a free market economy, a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in 2010 and avoided the major global financial crises. His is a promising legacy for senior figures of the high-tech industry, which is why they have appealed to him to ensure that politics does not endanger Israel's economy.

Faith and ideology

In Israel, and in India, many believe that prosperity and development drive people's political preferences. But political developments in Israel, and to an extent in India, tell us otherwise. People of faith or with strong ideologies are emotional beings. Identity and faith are very important for them. In India, we have seen how issues such as building temples and "uniting Hindus" has been used to mobilise voters. Emotive issues such as nationalism, religion and ideology sometimes act as a hot button compared to real-life issues such as low incomes, unemployment and price rise as people's emotions are stoked to make them believe that faith and religious values are more important to them. The 'start-up nation' of Israel may similarly not get the same attention from its free-market friendly Prime Minister this time around as his allies have built a coalition based on similar emotive issues.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vice-President's remarks

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar, who was feisty and forever in combative mode as Governor of West Bengal, has unnecessarily stoked controversy by making strong comments against the judiciary instead of treading the path of caution ("V-P says court can't dilute Parliament's sovereignty," Jan. 12). In Parliament, Vice-Presidents are seldom heard making such comments.

S. Kamat
Alto Santa Cruz

Mr. Dhankar's remarks come against the backdrop of frequent quarrels between the government and the judiciary. The Law Minister too keeps commenting on the collegium, which gives the impression that the government is attempting to denigrate the judiciary. Parliament does not have unbridled legislative powers. The court has the power of judicial review of any executive and legislative action.

S.K. Choudhury
Bengaluru

Hockey World Cup

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's efforts are truly laudable ("A push for glory," Jan. 12). In a cricket-crazy nation, encouraging and supporting another sport is commendable. India has potential to succeed in other sports; we have proven this. Athletes are recognised after the Olympics, but are then forgotten, whereas cricketers enjoy never-ending accolades. Other States must take a leaf out of the Odisha government's book.

Balasubramaniam Pavani
Secunderabad

Proud moment for India

RRR's win at the Golden Globe Awards is a proud moment for Indian cinema in general and Telugu cinema in particular ("Naatu Naatu from *RRR* movie wins Golden Globe award," Jan. 12). Music composer M.M. Keeravani deserves appreciation for this number, which was choreographed brilliantly by Prem Rakshith and sung well by Rahul Sipligunj.

C.K. Ramanathan
Ghaziabad

It is amazing and a matter of pride for India that Naatu Naatu won over songs by Taylor Swift, Rihanna and Lady Gaga.

N.J. Ravi Chander
Bengaluru

Tussle in Tamil Nadu

Even if Governor R.N. Ravi did not agree with the contents of the speech, he could have read it out fully ("A spat with a difference," Jan. 12). Also, he is not the authority to decide on name change in the State and should not be referring to it as 'Tamizhagam' either. It is the people and the government who should decide such sensitive matters. It is high time the President impresses upon Governors that their duty is to protect the Constitution and not engage in battles with Chief Ministers.

Bal Govind
Noida

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Will the Budget be populist or fiscally responsible?

PARLEY

Lekha Chakraborty
is a professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy

Madan Sabnavis
is chief economist at the Bank of Baroda

The Union Budget set to be presented in Parliament in February will be the last full-year Budget of the Narendra Modi government before the Lok Sabha elections are held next year. Given the electoral timetable, there is an expectation that the Budget could be populist in nature; but with high inflation, there are questions about the government's ability to spend freely at the moment. In a conversation moderated by **Prashanth Perumal J.**, Lekha Chakraborty and Madan Sabnavis discuss the fiscal situation. Edited excerpts:

Do you think the Central government can afford to present a populist Budget, given the current fiscal situation and high inflation?

Madan Sabnavis: The concept of a populist Budget is much misplaced because all governments try to do their best given the constraints in terms of raising revenue, and the ability to borrow. As of now, the government will not really take on things beyond what has been done so far. What I mean here is that most of the programmes which are running will probably continue to run. Will there be any new programmes that transfer income? I think that's not something on the radar because the government, as a rule, has been very prudent when it comes to fiscal management.

What we interpret as being a freebie or being populist is probably one interpretation rather than something which could be defined as being a kind of a trend. That said, I would say that even though we have an election coming up next year, the government is cognizant of the fact that the fiscal deficit ratio has to be reduced. So, to give a straight answer to the question of whether it will be a populist Budget, the answer is: probably not.

Lekha Chakraborty: My hunch is that the government is going to be very prudent rather than populist. In retrospect, I think people vote for a government that is responsible. So, I don't think there are going to be any major schemes or populist measures announced in this Budget. Rather, fiscal consolidation will be given importance, because by 2024-25, we need to reach the fiscal deficit target of 4.5% of GDP.

So, I think the tone of the Budget will be fiscal consolidation. Regarding populist measures, I think the government is going to emphasise on its food security measures in this Budget.

Other than that, I don't think that there is going to be anything populist because of the high fiscal deficit.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the 7th pre-Budget 2023 consultation meet held in November last year in New Delhi. PTI

Why is the chance of having a populist Budget low? Is it the fear of a backlash from markets or is it due to checks and balances within the fiscal architecture?

MS: The conditions today are quite different from what they were in 2019, or probably even in 2014. Before the 2019 elections, there was definitely more fiscal space available to the government. That's why we saw schemes such as PM Kisan, which was probably the first cash transfer scheme the government had brought about. Today we are in a different kind of situation, where there is overwhelming pressure to maintain fiscal prudence given the fact that our fiscal deficit is very high. We're talking about a fiscal deficit of 6.5% for the Central government, and another 3.5% to 4% for the States. So, while there could be a lot of measures announced in terms of policy, in terms of absolute Budget numbers, there is not too much space to spend.

LC: Prior to the elections, I don't expect a huge pumping of money into the economy in terms of cash transfers. We are too late to do that. We have not done that since 2020, and I don't think that there is going to be any announcement related to huge cash transfers to the hands of the people. But there could be targeted cash transfers. Another thing is that inflation is mounting, and the Reserve Bank of India is raising interest rates to tackle inflation. Inflation hurts the poor, so in the upcoming Budget, there will [likely] be social security measures to tackle that to prevent any electoral backlash.

Inflation is high, but it's on a downward trajectory. Do you think the government could expand its balance sheet, particularly given that it takes some time before higher government spending leads to higher inflation?

> Fiscal consolidation will be given importance, because by 2024-25, we need to reach the fiscal deficit target of 4.5% of GDP
> LEKHA CHAKRABORTY

LC: Fiscal policy needs to be accommodative. My belief is that the Union Budget will be accommodative because monetary policy is constrained in facilitating the growth recovery process as interest rates are mounting. If fiscal policy is not accommodative, it will affect economic growth in the long term. So, to support economic growth, fiscal policy needs to be accommodative, not in the sense of fiscally profligate policies, but a prudent fiscal policy focused on capital infrastructure.

MS: I have a slightly different view, because when I look at a Budget, I look at it more as an income and expenditure statement of the government. There is a certain amount of revenue which we are collecting, there's a certain amount of borrowing which can be calculated based on whatever are the fiscal prudence priorities of the government. Now, when you look at the total amount of expenditure in the Budget, a lot of it seems to be committed. There are lots of things that have to be paid. For example, I pay a subsidy because there are certain problems faced by the weaker sections of society; I have something called the interest payments that keep increasing; I have to keep spending on defence, particularly with border tensions rising. So, what really gets left over, which we call discretionary expenditure, is the capital expenditure.

Now, if we look at the overall capital expenditure numbers of the government, while the Central government has been fairly aggressive in terms of increasing these outlays, if you see the proportion of capital expenditure to the total amount of investment, capex spending by the government is minimal. This means that the ability of the government to really push forward economic growth would be very much restricted, especially if you're not doing anything on the taxation front. So, if you're talking in terms of growth, it has to come from the private sector. The government can probably contribute to it, and the States put together could also contribute to it. But if you say GDP growth is going to accelerate because of the Budget, I think that could be misplaced.

As we head into elections next year, do you see the prospect of any structural reforms being announced during the Budget? And how do you see the track record of the Centre since 2014 when it comes to enacting structural reforms?

MS: In terms of structural reforms, I think the government has been very positive. But I don't look at the Budget as being the platform where these policies are launched. Even during the COVID-19 crisis, we had policies announced, most of which were structural reforms. We need to adopt a longer time frame while we look at various sectors. You should also remember that India has a federal structure, which means we have States and municipalities. So, the Centre can only do certain reforms. We need reforms, in terms of doing business easier, which has to come at the State and municipal levels.

LC: Structural reforms are crucial because we need to look into the structural bottlenecks. Cyclical policies will not solve the issue of growth recovery. If we are focusing just on the cyclicality, we will not get to the growth story because many issues are structural in nature. One of the important structural reforms is power sector reform to clean the mess that power distribution companies are in. That policy is linked to the issue of fiscal consolidation as well because the extra borrowing space that we are giving to the State governments is based on the power sector reforms they enact. So that kind of linking of fiscal help with structural reforms is crucial.

In our cooperative federal model, it is not only policies at the State level, but the policies that the Central government has for transfers to the States that are also important. So, an accommodative policy when it comes to capital spending transfers to State governments, in the form of interest-free loans for instance, should be there in the upcoming Budget to support capital investment at the State level. Focusing on structural reforms is very crucial, particularly because the drop in economic growth that we are experiencing is not cyclical. We need to focus on the structural reforms, because the growth drop is a permanent scar.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Science journalism through the thicket of science

The readers of science journalism should be as much a part of the enterprise as journalists and scientists

Vasudevan Mukunth

Much to the chagrin of the science journalist, the first contact for too many people with something masquerading as science journalism is an article about how coffee (or wine) might improve (or worsen) your wellbeing – only for them to find out the next day in another article that wine (or coffee) might improve (or worsen) your wellbeing. This deceptively simple, even if confusing, experience reveals several important things about science, science journalism and journalism overall.

The last part first: I've been a journalist for a decade and I've learnt that passively consuming the news has become a luxury that no one can afford. Understanding the news is a skill and readers need to train themselves to do it well, especially science news. Thanks in part to the increasing democratisation of information, the dismal access to scientific work has become more noticeable, and that the forces keeping things that way are geared more towards good business rather than good science.

One of these forces is the 'publish or perish' culture: scientists in academia need to keep publishing papers, even as many journals where they publish demand more sensational findings, to hold on to their jobs, grants, etc. This culture has been exacerbated by rankings that focus on research output quantity over quality, and is responsible significantly, but not entirely, for low-quality research being produced in the first place.

Next, the press offices of many universities and research centres not uncommonly hype their scientists' work so that it is publicised and their employer's public reputation grows, sometimes at the cost of accuracy. Finally, reporters and/or editors often labour under the impression that everything scientists find must be fact, that the endeavours of science are agenda-free, and that science is self-correcting. These are popular ideals but not one of them is true – at least not without someone somewhere being incentivised to bend the arc of reality that way. But clichéd as this might sound, journalists in many newsrooms are rarely empowered to ponder these questions.

In a broader sense, it's not even clear what the purpose of science journalism in India is: Is it supposed to explain and popularise science? Do science journalists produce new knowledge or are they science-adjacent? In this milieu, many journalists simply reproduce what they have been told, leading to uncritical reportage, celebration of notions like 'prestige' and 'genius', and a fixation on journals in which papers are published rather than the papers' contents. This is the milieu that also publishes the coffee/wine reports. And this is why the reader of science journalism ought to be as much a part of the enterprise as the journalists and the scientists.

To do so, I ask all engaged readers to do two things. First, with practice, you can spot some telltale signs of dubiety. I recommend the following eight checks: I recommend the following eight checks: if the article talks about effects on people, was the study conducted with people or with mice? How many people participated in a study? Fewer than a hundred is always worthy of scepticism. Does the article claim that a study has made exact predictions? Few studies actually can. Does the article include a comment from an independent expert? This is a formidable check against poorly-done studies. Does the article link to the paper it is discussing? If not, please pull on this thread. If the article invokes the 'prestige' of a university and/or the journal, be doubly sceptical. Does the article mention the source of funds for a study? A study about wine should not be funded by a vineyard. Use simple statistical concepts, like conditional probabilities and Benford's law, and common sense together to identify extraordinary claims, and then check if they are accompanied by extraordinary evidence. Finally, once you have separated wheat from chaff, identify science journalism you like and vote for it with your wallet.

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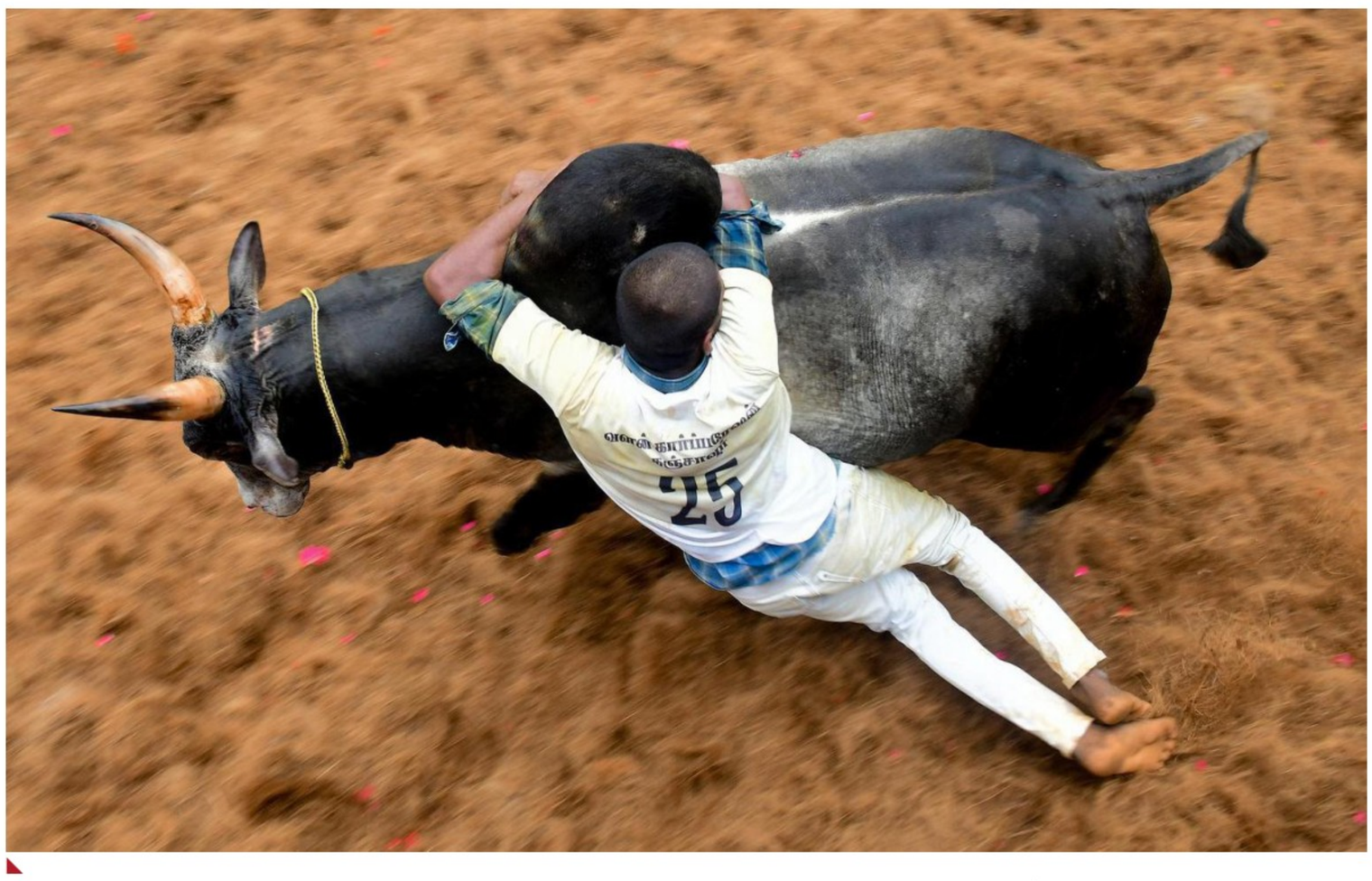
PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Deadly duel



A bull tamer holding on to a bull during jallikattu at Thachankurichi village in Pudukkottai district on January 8. On the opening day of jallikattu this season, as many as 74 people were injured. M. SRINATH

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 13, 1973

OAU condemns blockade of Zambia

Nairobi, Jan. 12: Rhodesia's decision to impose an economic blockade against Zambia and seal off the border on grounds of security has triggered off a chain reaction throughout Africa. The Organisation of African Unity, meeting in Accra (Ghana), has called on member States to rally round Zambia to defeat the forces of imperialism and oppression. The OAU Committee expressed its "disgust and indignation" at Rhodesia's action. The 35-member OAU, comprising all black African States, is more of a political forum, whose verbose bellicosity is usually not matched by concrete action or follow-up. There is division among its members about adopting a correct course of action to fight white racism in Southern Africa. This ranges from Tanzania's radical approach to the moderate line adopted by the French-speaking African States. Hence, the white rulers of Rhodesia are not likely to be much bothered by the OAU opposition. Meanwhile, Portugal is accusing the Rhodesian government of "panicking over relatively minor freedom-fighter incidents". Lisbon sources are making no secret of their contempt for and irritation at the Rhodesian move.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FROM THE ISSUE OF JANUARY 12, 1923 AS THERE WAS NO ISSUE ON JANUARY 13

Congress activity

Calcutta: Preparations are being made by the present Congress Executive in Calcutta to begin a campaign of appealing to the voters to abstain from voting at the ensuing by-election to the Bengal Legislative Council, for the vacancy caused by the death of Rai Radhacharan Pal Bahadur. A house-to-house visit and placarding of the quarters of the city are some of the methods in which the propaganda is to be carried on.

From Page One

‘World is in crisis, not clear how long it’ll last’

The countries of the global south should unite and change the unequal “global political and financial governance” structures, said the Prime Minister.

Traditionally, the global south has been understood as the postcolonial countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America but over the years the definition has undergone changes as multiple regional organisations and conflicts within this vast bloc of countries have introduced changes in its composition.

In his remarks in the Foreign Ministers’ segment in the event, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar came down on the unequal nature of the global structure and said the world is “becoming increasingly volatile and uncertain for the South”.

Vegetable prices help cool inflation

Fuel and light inflation stood at 11%, while clothing and footwear price rise remained sharp at 9.6% in December.

“The concern is that core CPI inflation remains sticky above 6%, with evidence of high inflation in services sector,” said Rajani Sinha, chief economist at CARE Ratings. The Reserve Bank of India’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting in early February, to determine if more rate hikes are warranted to cool price rise, will be ‘a close call’ amid sticky core inflation, she reckoned.

Consumer price inflation may yet inch back up to 5.8-6% this month, cautioned Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, as food inflation will have an ‘unsupportive base’ and core inflation is expected to remain elevated through this quarter with producers passing on higher costs and the demand for services staying robust.

Ex-Finance Secretary booked in graft case

It may be noted that Mr. Mayaram, along with his wife, had joined Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the party’s Bharat Jodo Yatra in Rajasthan’s Alwar in December last year.

The Central government had entered into an agreement with De La Rue regarding the supply of exclusive colour shift security thread in 2004 for five years. The contract was extended four times till December 31, 2015.

Recording the sequence of alleged events, the FIR said that on July 17, 2004, the then Finance Minister authorised the RBI to enter into an “Exclusivity Agreement” with the suppliers of exclusive security feature. A sub-committee headed by P.K. Biswas, the then RBI Executive Director, was formed to examine all the aspects of the exclusivity of three currency note security features, and also to go into the details of the prices.

However, as alleged, De La Rue did not have the patent for the colour shift thread at the time of its presentation in 2002 and selection in 2004.

The RBI, in April 2006, and the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India, in September 2007, submitted reports regarding non-possession of the patent. However, the agency alleged, Mr. Mayaram [then DEA Secretary] did not apprise the Finance Minister of the same. The contract was extended from time to time till December 31, 2012.

On May 10, 2013, Mr. Mayaram was informed that the contract with De La Rue had expired. The agency alleged that he, on June 23, 2013, approved another three-year extension of an “expired contract” and also overruled the fact that the extension could not be given without the mandatory security clearance from the Union Home Ministry.

The CBI alleged that Mr. Mayaram also did not take the approval from the Finance Minister the last time, while the previous three extensions had been approved. Based on its findings, the CBI had alleged *prima facie* proof of conspiracy among Mr. Mayaram, and the unknown officials of De La Rue, the Finance Ministry and the RBI.

India has made marked progress in LAC infra development: Army chief

From creating 6,000 km of border roads to improving all-weather connectivity in regions of Ladakh and Kameng, the Army has expanded infrastructure on this side of the Line of Actual Control with China, says General Manoj Pande

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Annual ritual: Army Chief General Manoj Pande addressing the Annual Press Conference in New Delhi on Thursday. R.V. MOORTHY

While there are reports of infrastructure build-up on the Chinese side, what does not come to the fore is what infrastructure has been developed on our side, Army chief General Manoj Pande said on Thursday, stating that there has been “marked improvement” and there are plans for all-weather connectivity and alternative connectivity.

Terming the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China “stable but unpredictable”, he said that in terms of numbers, there has been a slight increase in the number of Chinese troops opposite the Army’s Eastern Command, which he said came for training and have remained. He said five of the seven flash-points have been resolved with the ongoing talks at various levels.

Elaborating on infrastructure development, Gen. Pande said in the past five years, the Border Roads Organisation has constructed close to 6,000 km of roads; of this, 2,100 km has been along the northern borders. As for the upgrade of bridges, needed to carry guns and tanks, as much as 7,450 metres of them were constructed, he stated.

“The frontier road, which runs a total of 1,800 km, will connect various valleys in Arunachal Pradesh. The plan has been reenergised and funding has been assigned. Some work on it is already under way,” General Pande said.

There is the aspect of all-weather connectivity in both Ladakh and Kameng in Arunachal, he further stated. In Ladakh, there is the Zojila tunnel and the Z-Morh tunnel, which will link the valley to Ladakh and will be operationalised by the end of the year.

For connectivity to Leh from the other side, Atal tunnel is well known. There is also the Shinku la tunnel along the Nemu-Padam-Daricha road, which again is in the final stages of approval, Gen. Pande noted. “Once this happens, there will be all-weather connectivity from both sides to Ladakh.”

Speaking about Arunachal, he said there is also better all-weather connectivity to Tawang or Kameng sector. The Sela tunnel is likely to get operational by the middle of the year and one bridge further South at Nechiphu near Bomdila.

“In the context of habitats, especially Eastern Ladakh, we have close to 55,000 troops for whom habitat has been completed,” he shared. There has also been covered heated accommodation for 400-odd guns and 500 A-vehicles, he added.

Looking for alternatives

The Army has carried out an assessment on the reliance on some of the Soviet and Russian-origin equipment in its inventory in the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and is trying to identify alternative sources for spares and ammunition that has been impacted, Gen. Pande said.

About steps taken to address this issue, he said, “We got a waiver and sanction to procure, even if it is ex-imports, for the next two or three years. We have 40 such cases, including spares and ammunition, largely pertaining to air defence and tank fleet. We are looking at how the sustenance requirement is met.”

Gas tragedy: SC reserves verdict on curative plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its judgment on the Centre’s curative petition seeking enhancement of compensation to the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy, over and above the $470 million already paid by Union Carbide.

A five-judge Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul has said in no uncertain terms that it would not reopen the 1989 settlement between the government and the pesticide company on the basis of a curative petition.

The Centre had contended that the compensation, determined in 1989, was arrived at on assumptions of truth unrelated to realities. The government (along with several NGOs representing the victims) has sought additional funds of over ₹7,400 crore from the pesticide company.

Under Constitution, law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The public criticism aired by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) judgment may be seen as comments by a high constitutional authority against “the law of the land”.

The Supreme Court has held that its judicial pronouncements lay down the law. Article 141 of the Constitution mandates that a law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts, even the Supreme Court.

This is what the court has been trying to convey to the government and high constitutional authorities like Mr. Dhankar in its oral observations and orders recently. That is, as long as the NJAC judgment, which upholds the Collegium system of judicial appointments, exists, the court is bound to comply with the verdict. Parliament is free to bring a new law on judicial appointments, possibly through a Constitution amendment, but that too will be subject to judicial review.

A Bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and A.S. Oka has told the Attorney-General to advise the government and constitutional authorities that “it is necessary that all follow the law as laid down by this court; otherwise sections of society may decide to follow their own course...”

Now, Mr. Dhankar had remarked that judicial review, as in the case of the NJAC law, diluted parliamentary sovereignty. He had used terms such as “one-upmanship”. He had said he did not “subscribe” to the landmark *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment of 1973 which had propounded the idea of the Basic Structure, upheld judicial review and limited the Parliament’s power under Article 368 to amend the Constitution.

‘Checks and balances’

Yet, the very same *Kesavananda Bharati* verdict had made it clear that judicial review is not a means to usurp parliamentary sovereignty but only part of a “system of checks and balances” to ensure constitutional functionaries do not exceed their limits.

“We are unable to see how the power of judicial review makes the judiciary supreme in any sense of the word. This power is of paramount importance in a federal Constitution. Indeed, it has been said that the heart and core of a democracy lies in the judicial process,” the top court had observed in the *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment.

A classic observation in this regard was made by Chief Justice Patanjali Shastri way back in 1952 in State of Madras versus V.G. Row.

He said judicial review was undertaken by the courts “not out of any desire to tilt at legislative authority in a crusader’s spirit, but in discharge of a duty plainly laid down upon them by the Constitution”. His words were reproduced by Chief Justice J.S. Khehar in his lead opinion for the Constitution Bench in the NJAC case in October 2015.

A reading of the NJAC judgment showed how the court had discussed instances when political parties, through Parliament, had intruded in the court’s power of judicial review. The 42nd Constitution amendment introduced during the Emergency period was one. His statement that Constitution amendments constituted the “will of the people” has been repeated by successive governments in court.

“The same argument had been repeatedly rejected by this court. Article 368 postulates only a ‘procedure’ for amendment of the Constitution. The same could not be treated as a ‘power’ vested in Parliament to amend the Constitution so as to alter the ‘core’ of the Constitution, which has also been described as the ‘basic features/basic structure’ of the Constitution,” the NJAC judgment had said, while upholding judicial independence as a basic feature of the Constitution.

Core characteristics

The Basic Structure concept emerged in the *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment. The Basic Structure cannot be found in any particular Article and goes beyond the written word of the constitutional text

- It denotes a set of principles which links all the provisions and makes the Constitution an organic whole. Parliament is limited from making amendments which affect these core values or the Basic Structure of the Constitution
- Each judge on the *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment had his own take of the Constitution’s basic/essential features

- These features included supremacy of the Constitution, separation of powers between the legislature, executive and the judiciary, and democratic character of the polity

‘Dhankhar’s remarks an extraordinary attack on judiciary’

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The RS Chairman was ‘wrong’ to say Parliament is supreme, notes P. Chidambaram

Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar’s remarks, questioning the landmark 1973 *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment, is an “extraordinary attack on the judiciary”, the Congress said on Thursday.

On Wednesday, Mr. Dhankhar had criticised the scrapping of the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act in 2015 and also questioned the *Kesavananda Bharati* case verdict, saying it set a wrong precedent. The V-P had said he disagreed with the Supreme Court ruling that Parliament can amend the Constitution but not change its Basic Structure.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, who is also a senior advocate of the Supreme Court, said the Rajya Sabha Chairman was “wrong” in his observation.

“The Hon’ble Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is wrong when he says that Parliament is supreme. It is the Constitution that is supreme. The “Basic Structure” doctrine was evolved to prevent a majoritarian-driven assault on the foundational principles of the Constitution,” he said.

“Suppose Parliament, by a majority, voted to convert the parliamentary system into a Presidential system. Or repeal the State List in Schedule VII and take away the exclusive legislative powers of the States. Would such amendments be valid?” he asked in a series of tweets. He noted that nothing prevented the Union government from bringing another bill after the NJAC was struck down. “In fact, the Hon’ble Chairman’s views should warn every Constitution-loving citizen to be alert to the dangers ahead,” he said.

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said Mr. Dhankhar had taken the confrontation with the Supreme Court to a new level. “In my 18 years as a MP, I have never heard anyone criticise the 1973 *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment of the Supreme Court. In fact, legal luminaries of BJP like Arun Jaitley hailed it as a milestone. Now, Chairman of Rajya Sabha says it was wrong. Extraordinary attack on the judiciary,” he said on Twitter.

U.S. diplomat arrives for talks on business ties, human rights

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

U.S. top official for the region Donald Lu arrived in New Delhi on Thursday for bilateral talks on business, energy and strategic ties as well as on human rights and religious freedom. He will also speak on South Asian issues at the “Indo-U.S. Forum” conference in the capital, which will be addressed by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday.

Mr. Lu, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, will hold talks in the Ministry of External Affairs and prepare for a visit by Mr. Blinken in March this year for the G-20 Foreign Ministers meeting, and discuss preparations for the Quad summit to be held in mid-2023 in Sydney, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet U.S. President Joseph Biden.

Bangladesh visit

Mr. Lu will also travel to Bangladesh during this visit, the U.S. State Department had said in a release earlier this week. He will hold meetings in both Delhi and Dhaka on a “range of priorities including energy, trade, security cooperation, religious freedom, [labour], and human rights”.

The MEA did not issue any advisory on the meetings, and officials did not respond to a specific question on what talks in Delhi on “religious freedom” and “human rights” would entail. In the past, New Delhi has reacted sharply to U.S. criticism on religious intolerance, media freedom and human rights issues, terming them “biased and prejudiced” and “vote bank politics” by the U.S. administration.

Socialist stalwart Sharad Yadav passes away

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Socialist leader and former Union Minister Sharad Yadav passed away on Thursday evening after he was rushed to a Gurugram hospital when he complained of restlessness. He had been ailing for some time but was at home for the past few months. His daughter, Congress leader Subhashini Sharad Yadav, confirmed his passing on Twitter, saying “*Papa Nahin Rahe*” (Papa is no more).

Condolences were expressed by senior political leaders, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi noting that Yadav’s long career in public life and his socialist ideals were inspired by the late socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia. Congress president Mallikarjuna Kharge said that Yadav’s commitment to the politics of social justice would always be remembered.

Socialist roots

Yadav, 74, was born in July 1947 in Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh. His long political career saw him plunge into the anti-Emergency movement under Jayprakash Narayan and hold strongly to his socialist roots throughout. His election from Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh in a by-poll in 1974 is considered a landmark in the anti-Emergency struggle going on at that time, and his extreme youth (he was a student leader) was a marker of things to come. As the candidate of the combined Opposition, he defeated the Congress candidate.

Sharad Yadav

He had fought Lok Sabha elections and won from three States – Madhya Pradesh (Jabalpur), Bihar (Madhepura) and Uttar Pradesh (Badaun).

While he may have changed parties – from the Lok Dal during the Emergency period to forming the Janata Dal with former Prime Minister V.P. Singh in 1988, and later forming the Janata Dal(U) in the late 1990s (when he parted ways with another former PM H.D. Deve Gowda) and in 2003, joining hands with the late George Fernandes and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar – he remained firm on socialism and its credentials.

While he did have issues with reservation of Lok Sabha seats for women, he maintained that he was an advocate of quota for backward classes within the larger reservation for women. He was a strong supporter of the Mandal Commission as well.

He had a long career in both Houses of Parliament, being re-elected to several terms in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

He lost his Lok Sabha seat in the 2014 election and two years later, he was replaced as president of the JD(U). The move set off a power struggle within the party, and in 2018 Yadav and his supporters formed the Loktantrik Janata Dal. All was resolved a couple of years later when he merged his new party with the Lalu Prasad-led Rashtriya Janata Dal.

TIPRA Motha makes poll alliance conditional on Greater Tipraland

Party chief Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma says he wants Constitutional safeguards for tribal community, as its language, socio-political ethos were under threat and delimitation scheduled for 2026 will further push it to the margins

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

> The Congress leaders in the State who are resisting our demand are the first ones to join the BJP for grabbing power
>
> **PRADYOT BIKRAM MANIKYA DEBBARMA**
> TIPRA Motha chief

The demand for Greater Tipraland is non-negotiable and an alliance with any political party that can provide written assurance to support the demand will be considered, Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (or TIPRA Motha) chief Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

His comments come after CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said that the party was ready for an understanding with the Congress and the TIPRA Motha to defeat the BJP in the upcoming Assembly election in Tripura.

The Greater Tipraland includes the region under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTADC) and 36 villages out of it, within the Tripura State boundaries. TIPRA Motha has demanded that this area be carved out as a State or a Union Territory.

Currently, Mr. Debbarma said, the TTADC receives 2% of the State Budget, while it has 40% of the State's population.

The Left has expressed support for Greater Tipraland. At a press conference in Agartala on Wednesday, CPI(M) State secretary Jitendra Chowdhury said the demand was within the Constitutional framework. But State Congress president Birajit Sinha has already ruled out any support for it.

"There can be no closed door conversation on this. Whoever wants to ally with us needs to give us in writing that they support our demand for Greater Tipraland. I cannot betray my people and the entire movement for short-term electoral gains," Mr. Debbarma said.

He added that tribal language, culture and socio-political ethos were under threat and delimitation scheduled for 2026 will further push the tribal population to the margins.

"Unlike the NSCN which is asking for Greater Nagaland, absorbing regions from different States, we are not asking to take away anything from any State. Ours is a Constitutional demand," he said.

He did not entirely rule out a tie-up with the BJP too. "I have been fighting them for the past four-and-a-half years. It was TIPRA Motha who stood up for the Muslims when mosques were burnt here. But if tomorrow they give to us in writing that they support our demand, we will ally with them. Forget BJP, I will ally with AIADMK and DMK too if they support my demand," Mr. Debbarma added.

He also emphasised that Tipra Motha was the only regional party in north-eastern India that was not a part of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

"I don't have to prove my credentials to anyone. The Congress leaders in the State who are resisting our demand are the first ones to join the BJP for power. I believe making me Chief Minister or a Minister will not help my community. The question is not about power for me. I want Constitutional safeguard for my community," Mr. Debbarma said.

Amid talk of Congress-Left alliance in Tripura, BJP considers impact of tie-up

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

BJP president J.P. Nadda flew into Agartala on Thursday to conclude the first of the BJP's campaign yatras ahead of the Tripura Assembly election.

However, the rest of the party in the State has been going over what a coalition of the Congress and the Left parties could mean for the polls.

For the BJP, the task being undertaken now is a micro survey of just what this alliance could mean on the ground. Senior sources in the BJP who are involved in Tripura say that there is more to the scene than just plain arithmetic. "On the outset, it's very apparent that for generations, the Congress vote has been anti-Left, since the two main parties in Tripura were the CPI(M) and the Congress. That thinking to break will not be easy," said a source.

J.P. Nadda

"Congress supporters who are anti-Left will either vote for BJP or the King's party (Tripura Motha)," the source added.

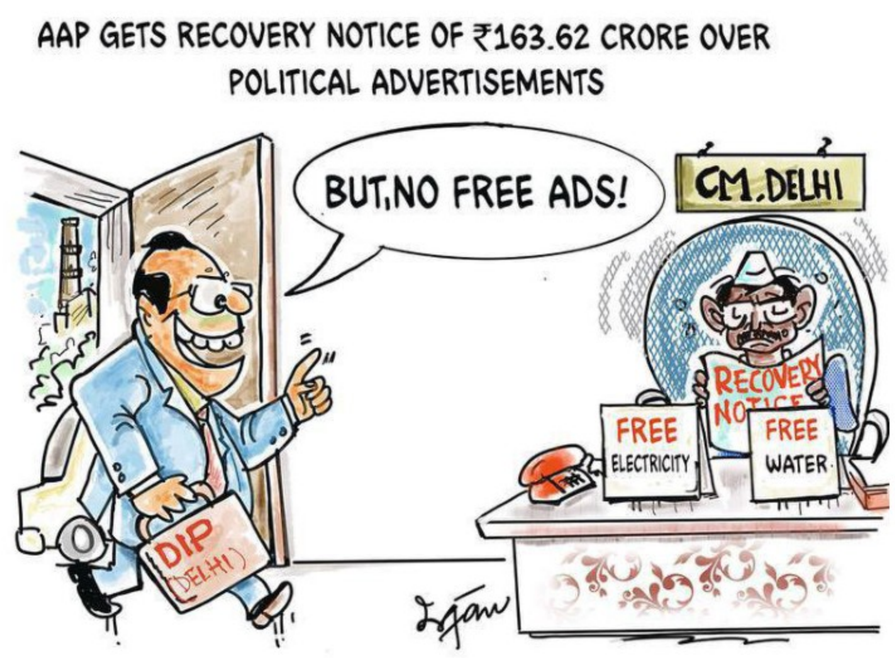
Even so, there are certain seats in the 60-member Assembly where the alliance is expected to help the Congress and CPI(M) candidates. "The Congress has a hold in the urban areas, while the Left is strong in rural Tripura. In urban seats like Kailashahr and Bardoli, the Congress will gain, and the significant Muslim population in Agartala 6 and Ram Nagar, if it consolidates because of the alliance will also hand over an advantage to the Congress," said a source.

"We are, however, also aware of the fate of the earlier CPI(M) and Congress alliances in West Bengal. The 'X' factor in all this is Tripura Motha and the indigenous vote," said the source.

For the BJP, among the nine Assembly polls coming up this year, ideologically, the most important one is Tripura, where the BJP directly takes on its ideological *bete noire*, the Left parties.

The change in Chief Minister from Biplab Deb to Manik Saha and the earlier defection of four MLAs has hit the party hard.

On the draw



Minority notification: Centre submits views of States to SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has suggested that the Centre can grant "migrated minority" status to Hindus who have moved to the national capital from places such as Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh where they are a religious minority.

The suggestion is part of a compilation of views collected by the Centre from 24 States on whether religious and linguistic minority communities should be identified and notified by the Union or the respective States. It is part of an affidavit submitted by the Centre in the Supreme Court.

Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.

As per the Census 2011, minorities make up about 19.3% of the total population of the country.

"The followers of Hinduism are not the religious minority in the NCT of Delhi but the Central government may declare the 'migrated minority' status to the followers of Hinduism who are the religious minority in their origin State (i.e., Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, etc) and residing in Delhi after migration from their home State," the Centre's note in the court quotes the Delhi government.

Tamil Nadu is clear that the identification and notification of religious and linguistic minorities should be made at the State level.

The suggestions have come on a petition in the court challenging the "exclusive" power given to the Centre to notify a minority community.

Centre is targeting AAP in ad money case: Sisodia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government is misusing its control over officers through the "services department" to target the Aam Aadmi Party and its leaders in false cases, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Thursday, reacting to the ₹164-crore recovery notice sent to the party by the Directorate of Information and Publicity (DIP).

The BJP said that the matter had nothing to do with the bureaucracy, adding that the recovery was based on an order from a Supreme Court-mandated committee.

Delhi Information and Publicity Secretary Alice Vaz has issued notice to the AAP's convener to recover costs spent on some political advertisements of the Delhi government that were published outside the State in the garb of government advertisements.

The matter dates back to 2016 when Congress leader Ajay Maken had filed a complaint with the committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGA), alleging violation of the guidelines in publishing advertisements. The CCRGA had found various violations in the Delhi government's advertisements. L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena directed implementation of the order.

'Worried over use of money power in polls'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has informed the Supreme Court that it is "seriously concerned" about the increasing use of money power in elections and has enforced the 'Election Expenditure Monitoring' mechanism since the 2010 Bihar Assembly polls.

A close vigil is maintained in 'expenditure sensitive' constituencies, said an affidavit in response to a plea filed by Prabhakar Deshpande for a plan to curb heavy poll spending.

18,600 toys seized for lack of quality mark

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday said 18,600 toys had been seized in the last one month from major retail stores, including those of Hamleys and Archies, at airports and malls across the country for the lack of BIS quality mark and the use of fake licences. Consumer protection regulator CCPA has also issued notices to three major e-commerce players – Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal – for the alleged violation of the quality control order.

IndianOil CIN-L23201MH1959GOI011388
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Indian Oil Corporation plans to develop customer-oriented highway facilities as Wayside Amenities at new IOCL Outlets on important existing and upcoming highways/ expressways pan India. Indian Oil proposes to form a panel of parties to develop, operate & maintain these nonfuel/commercial facilities. Interested Parties may refer to the detailed **EOI 2023_MKTHO_161445_1** at our website **www.iocletenders.nic.in** Last date for submission of application is **28.01.2023** at **18:00 HRS.**
Bidders can download the EOI from e-Tender website https://iocletenders.nic.in and the participation will also be through the website only. Corrigendum/addendum, if any, shall also be published in the above website only.

Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14, Kerala
Ph: 0487- 2459841, 2459842, 2459807
E-mail : purchase@oushadhi.org
P/218/2022-23 Date:13.1.2023
TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited for the supply of **I)** Raw Materials and **II)** Containers & Packing Materials for the period **1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023**. Tenders can be downloaded from the website **www.oushadhitender.com**. For more details, please visit our website **www.oushadhi.org** or contact our Purchase Division at Kuttanellur.
Thrissur (Sd/-) Managing Director

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.
CORRIGENDUM-2
COAL (SHIP) – 120 DT.02.01.2023

Description	As per Tender Notice issued on 04.01.2023 and Corrigendum issued on 06.01.2023	Corrigendum
Period of charter	6 months + 3 months choption +/- 15 days choption	9 months + 4 months choption + 3 months choption +/- 15 days choption
COAL (SHIP) – 121 DT.02.01.2023		
Period of charter	6 months + 3 months choption +/- 15 days choption	9 months + 4 months choption + 3 months choption +/- 15 days choption

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்." **DIPR/266/Tender/2023**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 146/2022-23/KWA/PHC/D2/TVM, **JJM 2023-24** Providing water supply line extension and FHTC in Malayinkeezhu Panchayath phase-III, **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 19,518/-, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 03-02-2023, 03:00 pm, **Phone :** 0471 2322303.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-1407-2022-23 **PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram**

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
WBSETCL Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan,Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/DOG CONDUCTOR/22-23/23 Date: 13.01.2023
The **Chief Engineer (Procurement)** invites e-Tender for procurement of ACSR DOG CONDUCTOR ***(2nd call)***. Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents by registering themselves on the e-tendering portal **(https://wbtenders.gov.in or https://etender.wb.nic.in)** and thereby downloading the bidding documents from **13.01.2023, 11:00 A.M.** and shall be submitted (online) up to **04.00 P.M., 08.02.2023**. Visit the Company's website- **www.wbsetcl.in** for details.
ICA- T867 (3)/2023

Karnataka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar
E-PROCUREMENT MODE
15 Days Short Term Tender Notification
No. R/eproc.81/Tender/2022-23/4661 Dt.: 23.12.2022
KVAFSU Bidar invites bids through e-procurement in 2 covers system for Supply of **equipments** for Veterinary College, Gadag and **Special work** for College of Fisheries, Mangaluru from Tenderers registered in e-procurement cell of Government of Karnataka, Total cost of the tendered amount is **Rs. 79.60 Lakhs**.
The detailed notification of tender can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **10.01.2023**. The last date for uploading tender documents is **27.01.2023** up to **5:00 PM**. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
DIPR/CP/LC/4052/2022-23 **Sd/- Er. Ramappa. H. Korawar, Estate Officer(I/c), KVAFSU, Bidar-585226. Ph.: 9483969344**

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur 302005
Office of the Addl.Chief Engineer (PPM)
Old Power House, Ram Mandir, Jaipur-302006
energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, email: ceppm@jvvnl.org, 0141-2202441
E- PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
E-tenders in two parts (Techno-commercial bid and Price bid) are invited from eligible bidders for design, survey, supply, installation, testing, commissioning, operation & maintenance for 25 years from COD of grid connected solar power plants through RESCO mode, its associated 33kV OR, 11kV line to connect the plant various 33/11kV sub-stations and RMS of solar power plants for solarization of agriculture consumers connected on 11kV feeders of various GSS in JVVNL under KUSUM Scheme – Component C (Feeder Level Solarization).All the details regarding tender is available at web site www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in vide NIT No. JVVNL/ACE (PPM)/XEN(RE-DSM)/ TN-01 In future, corrigendum/extension, if any, shall be published only at web site www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
UBN No. VVN2223WSOB00607
JPR 2774 (2023) **Additional Chief Engineer (PPM)**
Raj.samwad/C/22/13132 **For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507**

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
Tele: 0471-2945646, 2945600
website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, e-mail: etenders_ep@kmscl.kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No. KMSCL/EP/644/2022 Dated : 11.01.2023
e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)
Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T483/2022	Equipments for Wellness Centers, Instruments & surgical items for Wellness Centers, Simple PCR Analyzer, Digital dissection Microscope, Infrared Coagulation Apparatus	19.01.2023 11.00 a.m.	30.01.2023 05.00 p.m.
		SICS Set, Bed Side Locker Type B, Patient Transport Trolley with portable oxygen cylinder, Nerve locator with mapper, Slit lamp with zoom magnification and applanation Tonometer, Hand Held Slit Lamp	N.A.	28.01.2023 05.00 p.m.
2.	T484(R)/2022	Portable Echo Machine - Type B, Plaster Cutting Machine, Digital Dental X-ray Unit (Pediatric), Corneal Topography, Video Bronchoscope, Densitometer with Computer, Functional Electric Simulator, Strobe Video Rhyno Laryngoscope with Monitor, Camera and Light Source, Apherisis Machine, Gas Pipeline System for Analytical Laboratories, Spindle Grinder, Movement Therapy Machine, Static Cycle, Shortwave Diathermy, Tilt Table (Motorized), ADL Training Kit, Electronic Adult Weighing Scale (Platform Type), RO Water 500LPH for Autoclaves.	N.A.	30.01.2023 05.00 p.m.

State Public Sector undertakings and MSMEs registered in the State or registered outside the state satisfying the policy of Government of India are exempted from remittance of tender document cost and EMD subject to the submission of valid documents, provided all the offered products are manufactured by them. Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E -TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project Area-1) Request for proposal RFP for Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram - Package 6

Sl. No	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount (Exclusive Of GST)
1	Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram - Package 6	2023_SCTLT_547338_1	Rs. 2,51,68,759/-

Bid Submission Last Date: 27th January 2023, Friday, 5:00 PM
Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail.
All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website.
Bids are only accepted online on the Website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**
(Sd/-)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
RO/00106/D3/2023/I&PRD **SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd**

'Judiciary, legislature should respect boundaries set by the Constitution'

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Virtually endorsing Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's remarks on judicial overreach, the presiding officers of the Legislative Assemblies and Councils on Thursday recognised the separate powers of the judiciary and the legislature, and said they should "respect" the boundaries provided by the Constitution.

A resolution passed at the conclusion of the 83rd All India Presiding Officers' Conference said that it reaffirmed its complete faith in the primacy of the people of India in law-making through the legislative bodies of the nation.

Presiding officers of State Assemblies and Councils at the conference on Thursday. TWITTER/@OMBIRLAKOTA

"Legislature is supreme. It has the right to make laws and because it has the right to make laws, it is expected that all institutions remain within their boundaries," Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said.

Code of conduct

The resolution passed by the conference on Thursday sought a code of conduct to rule the behaviour of legislators in Assemblies, Councils and Parliament.

It resolved that Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of legislative bodies must be reviewed comprehensively, and model uniform Rules be formulated incorporating best practices in order to secure greater participation of members and more productive functioning of the Houses of legislature.

The resolution also asked parties to build a consensus against any disruption in the Houses of legislature, particularly during Question Hour.

INBRIEF

'Bombs dropped by Myanmar fell in Mizoram border area'

A Mizoram youth organisation on Thursday claimed that one of the several bombs dropped by the Myanmar military jets on the camp of a pro-democracy extremist group fell in Indian territory, causing some damage and affecting the lives of border villagers. The security forces entrusted with manning the India-Myanmar border and monitoring the conflict in the neighbouring country, however, rubbished the claim. "A bomb not just hit the Indian soil but also partly damaged an Indian vehicle which was near the Tiau River," the Tuipuiral Group of the Young Mizo Association (TGYMA) said.

NCSC seeks report over attack on Dalit youth in Uttarakhand

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Thursday issued notice to the district authorities of Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand after it took cognisance of reports that a Dalit youth was beaten up for entering a temple. The youth was allegedly beaten up with a burning piece of wood all night for entering the temple premises. The commission sought a detailed action-taken report from the authorities within three days.

Joshimath: demolition of two damaged hotels begins

Uttarakhand government has formed a panel with various stakeholders as representatives to decide on compensation and rehabilitation for the people affected by land subsidence

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand government has started work on demolishing two hotels in the "sinking" town of Joshimath. The hotel buildings are said to be posing a threat to smaller structures around them.

The State government has also formed a committee with various stakeholders as representatives to decide on compensation and rehabilitation for the people who lost their properties in the town.

Officials from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the local police came together to begin the demolition of Hotel Malari Inn on Thursday. Ranjit Sinha, State Disaster Management Secretary, said the dismantling of a part of the structure had started. The other hotel is Hotel Mount View.

Days numbered: Police personnel deployed outside Hotel Malari Inn ahead of its demolition, in Joshimath on Thursday. PTI

The officials of the SDRF told *The Hindu* that the demolition had to be undertaken under Sections 33 and 34 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 as they were posing a risk to 40 big and small houses, shops and other structures in the vicinity.

Thakur Singh Rana, owner of Malari Inn, had earlier been staging a protest against the demolition of the hotel, demanding that the government pay him compensation equivalent to four times of the present value of the property. However, on Thursday, he said that he could not risk the lives of others. "My hotel may damage several homes. I can't let that happen," he said.

So far, the district administration has completed the survey of over 60% of the buildings in the town, where 760 establishments were found to be damaged and 128 were categorised under "danger zone".

In the past 24 hours, the administration moved 27 families to temporary shelters from their homes. A total of 169 families and 589 people have been shifted to safety so far.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Thursday held a meeting with the committee constituted for the transparent distribution of an interim relief package to the affected families.

The Chief Minister said the market rate for the damaged homes would be fixed on the suggestions of the committee.

Army chief General Manoj Pande said 25-28 buildings inside the Army formation in Joshimath have developed minor cracks and that the units and jawans there have been temporarily relocated.

Explained |
Why is the land sinking in Joshimath?
bit.ly/joshimath

Families affected in Joshimath are being rehabilitated: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A plea in Delhi HC sought a direction to the Centre to constitute a panel to look into the issue

The Uttarakhand government informed the Delhi High Court on Thursday that the State authorities were in the process of rehabilitating families affected by land subsidence in Joshimath.

The State government also said the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force had been deployed in the area and that a rehabilitation package was also being prepared.

Uttarakhand made the submission before a Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad that was hearing a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to constitute a committee headed by a retired judge to look into the issue of the "sinking" of Joshimath.

The Bench posted the hearing on the plea for February 3.

"We are rehabilitating the people. Giving them relief packages. A lot of work is going on," Deputy Advocate-General for Uttarakhand J.K. Sethi said.

Construction a catalyst

The plea claimed that construction activities undertaken by the Ministries of Road Transport and Highways; Power; and New and Renewable Energy in the town had worked as a catalyst to land subsidence and "violated" the Fundamental Rights of the residents there.

"The respondent no.1 (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways) invested ₹12,000 crore in the programme for connectivity improvement for Char-Dham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunothri and Gangothri) in Uttarakhand," the plea stated. It said the Ministry of Power had also invested ₹2,976.5 crore and started constructing the Tapovan Vishnugad power plant in 2013.

₹4,957-crore bank fraud case against infra firm

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against Pratibha Industries Ltd., its top functionaries and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of 17 banks of ₹4,957.31 crore.

Among the accused persons are company directors Ajit Bhagwan Kulkarni, Ravi Kulkarni, Sunanda Datta Kulkarni and Sharad Prabhakar Deshpande. The loan accounts of the company were classified as non-performing assets on December 31, 2017.

The accused persons had allegedly diverted huge amounts of money from the company to its related parties and subsidiaries. Subsequently, these advances were written-off. It was also alleged that the company entered into fictitious sales and purchase transactions in order to inflate its turnover.

"Searches were held on Thursday at four locations," said a CBI official.

Missing doctors: CHCs face 80% shortfall of specialists, show Health Ministry data

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

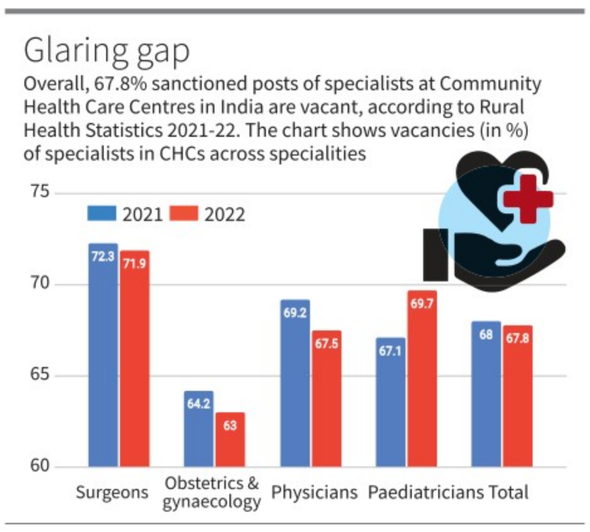
India is reeling under an acute shortage of specialist doctors, with a shortfall of nearly 80% of the required specialists at Community Health Centres (CHCs), reveals the Rural Health Statistics report published by the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry on Thursday.

The CHCs are 30-bed block-level health facilities which are ideally supposed to provide basic care related to surgery, gynaecology, paediatrics and general medicine.

The report points out that there is a shortfall of specialist doctors, including surgeons (83.2%), obstetricians and gynaecologists (74.2%), physicians (79.1%) and paediatricians (81.6%).

There are 6,064 CHCs across India, and the Health Ministry has been unsuccessful in meeting the requirement for specialist doctors in most of these centres. This is despite the fact that in 2005, the number of specialist doctors in the CHCs was 3,550, which has seen a 25% increase to 4,485 in 2022. However, with the number of CHCs growing, the requirement for specialists required to make the centres functional has also increased. "Requirements of specialist doctors in CHCs has increased by 63.8%, whereas there is only an increase of 26.3% in the actual number of in-position specialists," the report notes.

Apart from specialist doctors, there is a shortage of women health workers and auxiliary nursing midwives, with up to 14.4% of these posts lying vacant in primary health centres and sub-centres.



Six YouTube channels are peddling fake news, says PIB

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Press Information Bureau's fact-check unit has detected over 100 videos uploaded on six YouTube channels that monetised "fake news", and had garnered more than 50 crore views.

These channels, which together had subscribers of over 20 lakh, used clickbait thumbnails to peddle fake news pertaining to the President, the Prime Minister, Union Ministers and the Election Commission, said the Information & Broadcasting Ministry on Thursday.

These YouTube channels – Nation TV, Samvaad TV, Sarokar Bharat, Nation 24, Swarnim Bharat and Samvaad Samachar – were allegedly working in a coordinated manner and spreading false information.

"The channels are part of a fake news economy that thrives on monetisation of fake news," the Ministry said.

India intensified crackdown on activists, media in 2022: Human Rights Watch report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The report said the government 'misused' laws forbidding forced religious conversions

The World Report 2023 of Human Rights Watch (HRW), released on Thursday, said that Indian authorities had "intensified and broadened" their crackdown on activist groups and the media through 2022, adding that the "Hindu nationalist" Bharatiya Janata Party-led government used "abusive and discriminatory policies to repress Muslims and other minorities".

"The BJP government's promotion of Hindu majoritarian ideology provokes authorities and supporters to engage in discriminatory and at times violent actions against religious minorities," Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said adding that the authorities should be reining in party members and supporters responsible for these abuses instead of "jailing critics and shutting down rights groups".

The HRW said authorities across India arrested activists, journalists, and other critics of the government on what it called "politically motivated" criminal charges, including that of terrorism.

'Laws misused'

"The authorities in several BJP-ruled states demolished Muslim homes and properties without legal authorisation or due process as summary punishment for protests or alleged crimes," the HRW said, adding that they also "misused" laws forbidding forced religious conversions "to target Christians, especially from Dalit and Adivasi communities".

Referring to the release of the 11 Hindu men sentenced to life in jail in the Bilkis Bano case, and the celebration of their release by some BJP members, it said, "The action highlighted the government's discriminatory stance toward minority communities even in cases of violence against women."

On Jammu and Kashmir, the HRW said that even after three years of dilution of Article 370, "the government continued to restrict free expression, peaceful assembly, and other basic rights there".

It added that rights groups were harassed by Indian authorities throughout the country through tax raids, the use of the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act, and other allegations of financial irregularities.

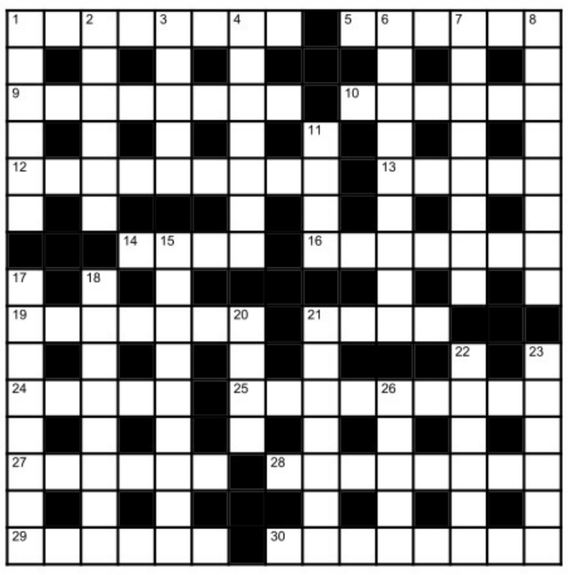
Meanwhile, the HRW noted the increasingly liberal steps taken by the Supreme Court in India, citing the ruling to halt all use of the colonial-era Sedition law and banning of the two-finger tests to protect survivors of sexual assault.

TH CROSSWORD + 13762

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Leg is fractured - broken by unfortunate dance step (8)
5 Disclose setter's role (6)
9 Choose essentially comical film to make one cheerful (8)
10 Sound right when speaking (6)
12 A small flower in Seattle, more regularly picked perhaps (9)
13 Poem partially in Arabic, really dismal (5)
14 Going around Switzerland is always painful (4)
16 Love bottle containing a drop of liquor (7)
19 Finish with terribly sore back (7)
21 Husband enters club in Thailand's capital (4)
24 Animal Hanuman at heart is a devotee of Rama, say (5)
25 Extremely untruthful analyst becomes an object of attack (4,5)
27 Demands old bills (6)
28 Gone (alas!) is my country (8)
29 Garment of strange eastern deity (3-3)
30 Cry ceaselessly, and speak about memento (8)

Down

1 Complaint in game (6)
2 Groove around in bar, one after the other (2,4)
3 Son removing top in snake dance (5)
4 Time to include IPL's exotic show (7)
6 Leading lady in royal carriage about to go through correspondence (9)
7 Relative supporting a student involved in some study (8)
8 Playing a lute? Get coaching (8)
11 Boss' detailed investigation (4)
15 Electronics company providing entertainment nonstop, I hear (9)
17 The sect prepared to induct one most savvy about computers (8)
18 Lacking teeth, oriental consumed food filled with depression (8)
20 Lady cycling for cheese (4)
21 Secret agent in rebellion, say reaching a state of captivity (7)
22 State a question in US city (6)
23 Tragedy - sick daughter missing dance (6)
26 One firmly attached to a post (5)

SUDOKU

3								2
6	2	1			9			
	9			4	1			
				2				7
1			5		6			4
4				8				
			7	5			9	
			9			2	6	5
9								3

No.SS5678 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

F	L	O	U	R	I	S	H	
I		U		O		I		
L	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	
T		E		O		E		P
E	R	R	O	R		C	H	E
R		M				A		L
	S	O	C	C	E	R		E
A		S		L				E
L	E	T	T	I	N	G		F
P				N		O		O
H	I	G	H	C	H	A	I	R
A		U		H		L		W
B	R	A	Z	I	L		P	A
E		C		N			R	
T	R	O	U	G	H		A	D

S	A	N	T	O	S			
	L		H		A			
V	A	C	A	N	T			
B		L		U				
E	X	T	I	N	C	T		
E		U		E				
F	O	R	U	M	S			
O			B		A			
C	R	E	E	L				
A		R		M				
P	A	L	M	E	T	T	O	
R		E		E		N		
A	D	J	O	I	N	E	D	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	5	4	3	6	7	2	8	9
3	7	9	4	8	2	1	6	5
8	2	6	5	9	1	4	3	7
2	9	3	6	1	4	7	5	8
6	8	1	9	7	5	3	2	4
7	4	5	2	3	8	6	9	1
5	3	7	8	4	6	9	1	2
9	1	8	7	2	3	5	4	6
4	6	2	1	5	9	8	7	3

FAITH

Seeking Acharya's proximity

Ramanujacharya leaves Srirangam because of religious persecution and goes to Melkote in Karnataka. His disciple Kooratazhvan is unable to bear separation from his Acharya. He goes to Thirumaliruncholai near Madurai. There are folk songs sung in Thirumaliruncholai, which speak of how Sundarabaahu, the deity of Thirumaliruncholai, blessed Kooratazhvan, said P.B. Rajahamsam, in a discourse. These folk songs praise the deity as One who saves those who trust Him, and refer to how He blessed Kooratazhvan. He is said to have appeared in Kooratazhvan's dream, and told him to come to Thirumaliruncholai, with the assurance that he would be reunited with Ramanujacharya. Kooratazhvan composed five stavas. It is said that on the way to Thirumaliruncholai, he composed Sri Vaikunta Stava and Atimanusha Stava. He composed Sundarabaahu Stava in Thirumaliruncholai. His outpouring of verses was to overcome his grief at separation from Ramanujacharya.

In the first verse of Sundarabaahu Stava, Kooratazhvan says he has learnt all sacred works from Ramanuja. He has performed *prapatti* (surrender). So, he has nothing to fear. This reminds one of Sita Devi's fearlessness as described by Valmiki. Sita is in the forest, the abode of dangerous animals. But She does not fear them, for She leans on Rama's shoulders. When one has gained His protection what is the need for fear? Kooratazhvan, having acknowledged his debt to his Acharya and having spoken of his *saranagati*, now proceeds to praise Sundarabaahu – the One with lovely shoulders . The boon he seeks is to be back with his Acharya Ramanuja in Srirangam.

PARIS

Won't apologise for colonisation, French President tells Algeria

AFP

President Emmanuel Macron has said he will not "ask forgiveness" from Algeria for French colonisation but hopes to continue working towards reconciliation with his counterpart Abdelmajid Tebboune. "It's not up to me to ask forgiveness, that's not what this is about, that word would break all of our ties," he said in an interview. AFP

DUBAI

UAE names oil chief to head COP-28 talks, raising criticism

AFP

The head of the United Arab Emirates' national oil company was named on Thursday as president of this year's COP-28 climate talks, prompting fierce criticism from environmental activists. Sultan al-Jaber, chief executive of the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, will be the first CEO to take the role at the UN meet. AFP

RAMALLAH

Israeli forces kill man in West Bank during raid: Palestinian Ministry

AFP

Israeli forces killed a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank on Thursday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, as the Army claimed rocks were thrown at Israeli forces during a raid. "Samir Aouni Harbi Aslan, 41, was killed during the aggression on Qalandia camp" for Palestinian refugees near Ramallah, the ministry said. AFP

ATHENS

Second Greek Jewish memorial vandalised in Thessaloniki

AP

Greece's top Jewish body said a memorial to thousands of Jews killed in the Holocaust had been vandalised in Thessaloniki, the second such incident in as many weeks. A mural commemorating the deportation of the Jews of Thessaloniki, to the Nazi camps had been daubed with swastikas and fascist symbols, it said. AFP

Sri Lanka SC orders Sirisena to pay victims of bombings

The court drew attention to the govt's failure to act on intelligence provided by India weeks before the 2019 Easter attack; 'A Victim Fund must be established at the Office for Reparation,' it ordered

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Thursday ordered former President Maithripala Sirisena to pay a compensation of LKR 100 million (roughly ₹2.2 crore) to victims of the April 2019 Easter Sunday terror blasts, while pointing to a "reckless" intelligence failure on the part of the Executive.

"A Victim Fund must be established at the Office for Reparation, which must formulate a scheme to award the sums ordered as compensation in a fair and equitable manner to the victims and families," the island's top court noted. Further, the former IGP, former Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, former head of the State Intelligence Service, former Chief of National Intelligence and the State were also ordered to pay compensation totalling over LKR 200 million.

On April 21, 2019, Sri Lanka witnessed serial blasts across churches and luxury hotels in the capital Colombo, nearby Negombo, and the eastern city of Batticaloa. A total of 279 people died and hundreds were injured in the incident that shook the island, a decade after its brutal civil war ended.

Up close: Security personnel inspect the interior of St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo in April 2019, after the bomb blasts. AFP

While Thursday's court order is significant for the families of victims, the investigation into the blasts is ongoing. Sri Lanka's Catholic church has been flagging the lack of progress in the probe, and the Archbishop of Colombo Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith has raised the issue at international forums, including the Vatican and the UN Human Rights Council, contending that the incident was "not purely a work of extremists, but a grand political plot."

Citing several "failures" of the then President – also the Minister of Defence – and senior officials, the Supreme Court's seven-judge Bench noted that the lapses in communication within the security establishment, and the sporadic conduct of National Security Council meetings amounted to "a serious omission on the part of the then President". The observation appeared to echo the findings of a parliamentary panel probing the blasts in 2019 that accused Mr. Sirisena of "actively undermining" government and security systems.

Indian intelligence

The court also drew attention to Sri Lanka's failure to act on intelligence provided by India weeks before the attack, and noted: "Easter Sunday was just a few weeks away when the heads-up about the imminent attack came from India, but there is little alertness or perceptiveness shown by officials to carry out any measures to safeguard any of the churches in the country."

The court said the state intelligence chief's argument, that the alert from India was "mere information and not intelligence", was "fatuous".

Colombo-based Human rights defender Ruki Fernando said the Supreme Court judgment is "a significant moment" in the struggles for justice by survivors of the Easter Sunday attacks, and an acknowledgement of the pain and grief of survivors and victims' families. "Importantly, it recognises the importance of accountability of very senior state officials, including the then Executive President. This poses a serious challenge to investigators, prosecutors, and the judiciary to hold those most responsible, or the masterminds, criminally accountable," he told *The Hindu*.

However, the compensation awarded is "relatively low" in his view, considering the large number of those killed and injured in various ways, their diverse long-term needs, the seriousness of the crimes. "This is the largest post-war massacre in Sri Lanka," Mr. Fernando said.

U.S. vows to defend space with Japan

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The United States said on Wednesday that attacks in space would invoke its defence treaty with Japan and announced the deployment of a more agile Marine unit on its ally's soil as alarm grows over China.

Weeks after unveiling plans to ramp up security spending, Japan sent its Defence and Foreign Ministers to Washington where the two countries issued a statement vowing to "modernise the alliance in order to address the increasingly severe security environment."

The talks finalised a plan by the U.S. to send a so-called Marine Littoral Regiment, a more agile unit that can operate defences both by sea and air, to Okinawa, the southern Japanese island.

Biden on the defensive over classified documents

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden said on Thursday "a small number" of classified documents had been found at his private residence, prompting calls for a congressional investigation into the alleged mishandling of official papers.

The potentially embarrassing discovery for Mr. Biden came as authorities investigate a far bigger scandal involving his predecessor Donald Trump.

The documents dating to the Obama-Biden administration were found at Mr. Biden's residence in Wilmington, Delaware, after other similar papers were found at a Washington think tank where Mr. Biden used to have an office.

Joe Biden

Former President Trump hoarded huge numbers of documents at his Florida residence after leaving the White House in 2021, with the FBI carting away some 11,000 papers after serving a search warrant in August. Mr. Trump could face obstruction of justice charges.

But the discovery of papers at Mr. Biden's house is politically tricky for a President who touts his high ethical standards.

"We're cooperating fully (and) completely with the Justice Department's review. As part of that process, my lawyers reviewed other places where documents from my time as Vice-President were stored, and they finished the review last night.

"They discovered a small number of documents with classified markings in storage areas and file cabinets in my home and my personal library.

"The Department of Justice was immediately notified... So we're going see all this unfold," he added, declining to take shouted questions from the press.

Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy demanded that "Congress has to investigate this," pointing to the Justice Department's investigation of Mr. Trump.

UAE agrees to roll over debt to Pakistan

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

The United Arab Emirates has agreed to roll over $2 billion owed by Pakistan and provide the country with an extra loan of $1 billion, Islamabad said on Thursday.

The agreement comes as Pakistan grapples with a major foreign exchange crisis, holding enough reserves to pay for just three weeks of imports.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in the UAE earlier on Thursday for talks with top Gulf officials to seek help for the battered economy.

"The UAE president agreed to roll over the existing loan of U.S. $2 billion and provide a U.S. $1 billion additional loan," a statement from Mr. Sharif's office said.

"Both sides agreed to deepen the investment cooperation, stimulate partnerships and enable investment integration opportunities between the two countries."

The statement did not provide the terms of the loan agreement.

Pakistan's national debt stands at $274 billion – or nearly 90% of gross domestic product. The nation's forex reserves have dwindled to less than $6 billion, with obligations of more than $8 billion due in the first quarter alone.

Russian forces press deadly assault for breakthrough in east

Associated Press
KYIV

Russia said on Thursday that its forces are edging closer to capturing a salt-mining town in eastern Ukraine, which would mark an elusive victory for the Kremlin but come at the cost of heavy Russian casualties and extensive destruction of the territory they claim. Ukraine's Donetsk Governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said in televised remarks that more than 100 Russian troops have been killed in the battle for Soledar over the past 24 hours.

Soledar's fall would be a prize for a Kremlin starved of good battlefield news

Russian forces are using mortars and rockets to bombard Soledar in an unrelenting assault, battling for a breakthrough after military setbacks have turned what the Kremlin hoped would be a fast victory into a grinding war of attrition that has dragged on for nearly 11 months with no end in sight.

Soledar's fall would be a prize for a Kremlin starved of good battlefield news in recent months, after losing the significant city of Kherson in December. It would also offer Russian troops a springboard to conquer other areas.

Israeli lawyers rally against judicial overhaul plans

Agence France-Presse
TEL AVIV

Hundreds of Israeli lawyers rallied on Thursday outside a Tel Aviv court to protest against the government's controversial plans to overhaul the judicial system.

The rare demonstration by attorneys follows the Justice Minister outlining proposals such as allowing politicians to override Supreme Court decisions.

A man holds a sign during a demonstration by lawyers. AFP

Justice Minister Yariv Levin wants to hand more powers to members of Parliament in appointing judges, which are currently picked through a panel of magistrates, lawyers and politicians, under the supervision of the justice ministry.

He has also proposed a "derogation clause", which would allow Parliament to annul a Supreme Court decision with a simple majority.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
Department of Prisons and Correctional Services
Tender Notification

1. For details, visit www.tenders.tn.gov.in
2. Tender are invited by the Director General of Police / Director General of Prison and Correctional Services, Chennai - 8 for the supply of raw materials and other miscellaneous articles required for prison industries for the year 2023 - 2024.
3. The Tender documents can be downloaded at free of cost in the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in from 13.01.2023 to 12.02.2023 upto 05.00 hrs.
4. Last date and Time for downloading and submission of Tender Documents.

1.	Last Date and Time for downloading of Tender Documents	12.02.2023 upto 05.00 P.M.
2.	Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents	13.02.2023 upto 03.00 P.M.
3.	Last Date and Time opening of Tender Documents	13.02.2023 upto 04.00 P.M.

5. Other details are available in Tender Documents.

(Sd) Director General of Pollice /
Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services

DIPR.277/Tender/2023
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

TAMIL NADU LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY,
4th Floor, Integrated Office Complex for Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Department, 571, Anna Salai, Saidapet Veterinary Polyclinic Campus, Nandanam P.O., Chennai - 35. e-mail: tnlda2016@gmail.com
TENDER NOTICE
Sealed tenders are invited for the following items under "Two Cover System"

Tender No.	Name of the Unit
TNLDA/2023/03	Establishing Automatic Feeding and Watering System for native chicken at AIIRLIVAS, Salem
TNLDA/2023/04	Establishing Small Ruminant Slaughter Line at AIIRLIVAS, Salem
TNLDA/2023/05	Establishing Chicken Slaughter Line at AIIRLIVAS, Salem
TNLDA/2023/06	Establishing Pig Slaughter Line at AIIRLIVAS, Salem

Pre-Bid meeting on 24.01.2023 – 11.30 AM
Individual tender documents with full details can be downloaded free of cost from www.tenders.tn.gov.in upto **13.02.2023, 5.00 PM**
Last date for submission of tenders: **14.02.2023, 11.00 AM**
Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on the above website
DIPR/269/Tender/2023 **Chief Executive Officer**
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
Director of Municipal Administration (DMA)
INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS (IFP)
Consulting services
Ref: DIPR/DMA/January/2023

1. Mission Director – Urban 2.0 (SBM 2.0), Tamil Nadu, Director of Municipal Administration (DMA) intends to appoint a consultancy firm for providing the following consultancy services. In this regard, DMA invites proposals for Consulting Services as detailed in the table given below:

Description of Services	EMD	Pre-bid meeting	Bid Submission last date	Bid Opening
Appointment of Consultant for "Preparation of Detailed Feasibility Report and providing Transaction Advisory Services for establishment of Fully Automated Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) in Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli Erode and Tambaram Corporations" under SBM (U) 2.0	Rs. 90,000/-	19-01-2023 @ 11.00 hrs.	30-01-2023 upto 11.00 hrs.	30-01-2023 at 11.30 hrs.
Appointment of Consultant for "Preparation of Detailed Feasibility Report and providing Transaction Advisory Services for establishment of Bio-CNG in Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur, Thanjavur, Nagercoil and Tambaram Corporations" under SBM (U) 2.0	Rs. 95,000/-	19-01-2023 @ 11.30 hrs.	30-01-2023 upto 11.00 hrs.	30-01-2023 at 12.30 hrs.

1. The above assignment is open to all eligible consulting firms. Request for Proposals (RFP) may be downloaded and used free of cost from the websites viz. **www.tnurbantree.tn.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and **www.tnuifsl.com.**
2. Pre-qualification, Technical and Financial proposals under the 'three cover system' must be delivered in the office of TNUIFSL, 19, T.P. Scheme Road, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai – 600 028 on or before date mentioned in above table and Pre-qualification cover -1 alone will be opened on the same day, in the presence of the consultancy firms who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the proposals as specified, the proposals will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. A pre-proposal conference will be held in the office of TNUIFSL, to clarify queries if any as stated in the RFP.
4. Any Changes / Clarifications, Minutes of Pre-bid meeting and Addendum & Corrigendum issued will be uploaded only in the above websites. Other details are available in the RFP.

DIPR/271/TENDER/2023
Mission Director – Urban 2.0 (SBM 2.0)
Director of Municipal Administration
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) - 30 / 2022-23

1. The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge works as detailed below :
2. Nature of work : **Bridge work**
3. No. of work : **01 no.**
4. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000.00 (on-line)**
5. Class of Contractor : **A / Special Class Contractor**
6. Available of bid document in the website : **From 10.00 AM of 17.01.2023 to 5.00 PM of 06.02.2023**
7. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.07.02.2023 at 11.30 AM**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha.
B-1119: OIPR-34003/11/0063/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender Call Notice E-mail : rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 22/2022-23
Memo No - 23 Dt.05.01.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building works as detailed in the table below:

1. **Nature of Work : Building Works**
2. **No of Work : 2 Nos**
3. **Tender Cost : Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)**
4. **Class of Contractor : A Class & Spl Class**
5. **Available of Bid document in the Website : From Dt.16.01.2023 10.00 AM to Dt.25.01.2023 5.00 PM**
6. **Date of opening of Bid : Dt 27.01.2023 at 11.30 AM**
7. **The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website:https://tenderodisha.gov.in. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.**

Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
B-1112: OIPR-34127/11/0032/2223

INBRIEF

Wheat output said to be set for a new record in 2022-23

India's wheat production may set a new record of more than 112 million tonnes in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), official sources said. Wheat production had declined to 106.84 million tonnes following a heat wave in key growing States in 2021-22 crop year, as per the Agriculture Ministry data. In 2020-21, India had achieved a record wheat output of 109.59 million tonnes. "The crop prospect is better due to weather conditions and a slightly higher acreage," they said. PTI

Cyient Q3 net profit rises 18% to ₹156 cr. on higher income

Global engineering and technology solutions company Cyient reported consolidated net profit increased more than 18% to ₹156 crore for the December quarter compared with the year earlier, on the back of a nearly 37% rise in total income to ₹1,645.7 crore. Sequentially, the net profit increased more than 97%, while total income was higher by 16%. For the September quarter, the company had posted a net profit of ₹79.1 crore and a total income of ₹1,415.9 crore.

Post 2022 dip, Kotak sees 30% rise in IPOs to $10 bn in 2023

After a sharp decline in initial public offering (IPO) activities in 2022, Kotak Investment Banking said it expected a 30% jump in 2023 IPO issuances. Head of equity capital markets V. Jayasankar said there was a strong pipeline of more than $9 billion, approved by SEBI and another $6 billion filed, of which $10 billion should fructify. In 2021, Indian companies raised $16.5 billion via IPOs which fell to $7.6 billion in 2022 amid massive volatilities in the market. PTI

Industrial output rebounded to 7.1% growth in Nov. after Oct. contraction

First uptick in output of consumer durables, non-durables after a streak of contractions, production grew across all six sub-sectors for the first time since June 2022; in comparison, October had seen just two sectors registering expansions

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's industrial output bounced back to post 7.1% growth in November 2022, after shrinking 4.2% in October as per revised estimates.

The jump was aided by a base effect as November 2021 had clocked just 1% growth, but also marked a 6% uptick in output levels over October 2022, when the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had recorded its lowest reading since November 2021.

After having contracted almost 6% in October, manufacturing output rebounded to 6.1% year-on-year growth, and logged a 6.55% sequential expansion. Mining output growth accelerated, from 2.5% in October, to 9.7%.

Electricity generation rose 12.7% in November, from just 1.2% year-on-year growth in October, but total generation shrank 1.5% from the preceding month.

'Capital goods surge'

On end-use basis, production grew for all six sub-sectors for the first time since June, compared with just two sectors in October.

Consumer non-durables output grew 8.9% in November after four months of contraction, with production hitting the highest level since December 2021. Consumer durables output rebounded to grow 5.1% after three months of contraction, but was boosted by the base effect of a 5.7% dip in November 2021. Capital goods, which had contracted 1.7% in October, bounced up 20.7% in November and were 11.1% higher sequentially. India Ratings and Research economists warned that recovery in factory output had a long way to go and would need more policy support.

"The output levels of intermediate goods and consumer durables are less than pre-COVID levels," said Sunil Kumar Sinha and Paras Jasrai.

Output surge

Index of Industrial Production showed a clawback in November, but metrics were aided by a low base effect from the year-earlier period

- Manufacturing grew 6.1% from Nov. 2021, and rose 6.55% sequentially
- Mining output growth accelerated from 2.5% in Oct. to 9.7%
- Power generation climbed 12.7% in Nov., but total generation was 1.5% lower than in the previous month

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,958	-0.25
US Dollar	81.30	0.37
Gold	56,082	-0.08
Brent oil	83.94	2.85

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3647.20	11.40
Adani Ports	792.95	-3.50
Apollo Hosp	4359.75	-0.85
Asian Paints	2915.95	-24.45
Axis Bank	935.55	-14.20
Bajaj Auto	3570.30	32.25
Bajaj Finserv	1387.80	-11.90
Bajaj Finance	5898.40	2.65
Bharti Airtel	756.90	-8.65
BPCL	345.05	-7.45
Britannia Ind	4299.25	-15.05
Cipla	1061.15	13.55
Coal India	213.90	0.50
Divis Lab	3305.30	-106.15
Dr Reddys Lab	4310.60	48.70
Eicher Motors	3103.25	-34.00
Grasim Ind	1642.40	7.35
HCL Tech	1071.65	16.85
HDFC	2612.80	17.95
HDFC Bank	1599.40	8.50
HDFC Life	598.40	-1.45
Hero MotoCorp	2694.25	0.50
Hindalco	485.65	-5.30
Hind Unilever	2590.05	-3.20
ICICI Bank	860.65	-5.65
IndusInd Bank	1209.15	-4.10
Infosys	1480.60	9.35
ITC	329.85	-1.95
JSW Steel	763.45	9.25
Kotak Bank	1779.50	-22.35
L&T	2159.75	34.40
M&M	1319.90	7.30
Maruti Suzuki	8369.20	84.75
NestleIndia	19873.25	114.95
NTPC	165.95	-0.10
ONGC	146.15	-0.65
PowerGrid Corp	213.50	1.55
Reliance Ind	2471.60	-54.55
SBI Life	1315.70	24.40
State Bank	594.90	-1.80
Sun Pharma	1032.85	4.85
TataConsumerProduct	754.25	-5.05
Tata Motors	412.25	-5.95
Tata Steel	118.10	-0.75
TCS	3334.35	5.65
Tech Mahindra	1001.55	-4.80
Titan	2446.60	9.20
UltraTech Cement	7153.35	131.40
UPL	717.80	0.00
Wipro	394.50	0.65

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.35	81.67
Euro	87.56	87.91
British Pound	99.05	99.44
Japanese Yen (100)	62.08	62.32
Chinese Yuan	12.06	12.11
Swiss Franc	87.29	87.69
Singapore Dollar	61.19	61.44
Canadian Dollar	60.57	60.82
Malaysian Ringitt	18.67	18.74
Australian Dollar	56.16	56.43

Source:Indian Bank

'Public debt to rise in FY24, fiscal deficit to shrink to 5.8%'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The Centre and States are likely to budget for higher market borrowings to the tune of ₹2.3 lakh crore combined next fiscal, though the Budget may peg a lower-than-expected fiscal deficit at 5.8% of GDP, ICRA Ratings said.

The agency said higher redemptions would lead to gross market borrowings of the Centre to rise to ₹14.8 lakh crore and of the States to jump by ₹1.6 lakh crore to ₹9.6 lakh crore.

Infosys lifts revenue guidance on deal pipeline, Q3 net rises 13% to ₹6,586 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Infosys on Thursday raised its full-year revenue guidance after reporting a 13.4% jump in third-quarter net profit to ₹6,586 crore. Revenue rose 20.2% to ₹38,318 crore, aided by digital and core services, the technology and digital services firm said.

"Although Q3 was a seasonally weak quarter, we were able to benefit from consolidation and earned market share," CEO & MD Salil Parekh said. "We won large deals worth $3.3 billion, the highest in eight quarters, as against $2.7 billion bagged last quarter," he added.

However, the firm was witnessing varying demand environments for different industries in global markets. For instance, energy, utility and manufacturing were extremely strong while financial services, hi-tech, retail, telcos, mortgage and investment banking showed some constraints, especially in Europe, Mr. Parekh said.

"Also, there is more demand for projects around automation, cost-efficiency and operational optimisation. We do see a change in the environment; however, our two engines, cloud and digital, are driving growth for us."

Salil Parekh

Infosys also lifted its FY23 revenue growth guidance to 16-16.5% from 15-16% earlier. "Our deal pipeline continues to be strong as we enter the fourth quarter," the CEO added.

Attrition eased to 24.3%, from 27.1% in Q2. "The overall market environment is also changing and therefore the attrition will further come down," he said.

In Q3, Infosys hired 1,627 employees, taking total headcount to 3,46,845. The firm also onboarded 4,600 freshers.

CFO Nilanjan Roy said in Q3, the operating margin remained steady at 21.5%. The margin stayed resilient on cost-optimisation benefits which offset the impact of seasonal weakness in operating parameters.

U.S. inflation eases to 6.5%, slowest pace in more than a year

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

CPI dipped 0.1% from November, the first month-on-month contraction in about two years

Consumer inflation in the United States slipped in December to the lowest level in over a year, government data showed on Thursday, signaling the worst of red-hot price increases may be over.

As American households struggled with decades-high inflation over the last year, the Federal Reserve raised its benchmark lending rate at a pace unheard of since the 1980s in hopes of cooling the world's biggest economy.

On the back of the aggressive campaign, the consumer price index (CPI) rose 6.5% from a year earlier last month, the smallest increase since October 2021, said the Labor Department. The annual figure is also down from November's 7.1% spike.

"The index for gasoline was by far the largest contributor to the monthly all items decrease," the Labor Department said.

Between November and December, CPI dipped 0.1%, the first month-on-month contraction in about two years.

Goyal rules out mini trade pact with U.S., says GSP not a priority for India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian government and the Biden administration are "thinking big" in terms of their trade and commerce relationship, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday as he ruled out the previously talked about mini trade deal or a free trade agreement and noted that restoration of GSP was not a priority for New Delhi.

The previous Trump administration had revoked the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefit, which allows eligible developing countries to export duty-free goods to the U.S., for India.

Piyush Goyal

"I think in terms of GSP, I have not heard any significant clamour from the Indian industry. To focus our energies on the GSP issue, I have raised it today with my counterparts," Mr. Goyal told reporters at the conclusion of the India-US Trade Policy Forum meeting, which he co-chaired with U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai.

The two nations on Thursday also "expressed their intent" to resolve "outstanding trade issues".

The 13th India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum (TPF) was held in Washington, where Mr. Goyal met Ms. Tai.

"The Ministers welcomed the recent intensification of work among their officials aimed at finding mutually-agreed solutions on outstanding WTO disputes between the two countries," they said in a joint statement. "They further directed officials to continue this engagement with the view of arriving at satisfactory outcomes in the coming months."

In this regard, the United States "appreciated India's initial public consultation on the draft Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Act and India noted that comments and suggestions on the draft bill are being examined as per standard procedures for introduction in the parliament."

IP regime talks

The two sides also held extensive discussions on the IP (intellectual property) regime and appreciated the sustained work on this front under the Trade Policy Forum's IP Working Group. "The United States welcomed India's ongoing domestic consultations regarding the administration of its IP regime," they observed in the statement.

(With PTI inputs)

Switch Mobility to make e-LCVs at Ashok Leyland's Hosur plant

N. Anand
NEW DELHI

Switch Mobility, the EV arm of Ashok Leyland Ltd., will start producing electric light commercial vehicles (e-LCVs) at ALL's plant in Hosur from this year, said CEO Mahesh Babu.

"While the e-LCV range will be manufactured at ALL's Hosur plant, e-buses will be produced at ALL's Ennore unit," he said.

The production capacity for e-buses was 2,500 and for e-LCVs, in phase 1, is 3,000 units per annum and is scalable, Mr. Babu added. "We are going to set up new units within the group's premises and will use their existing facilities to optimise cost," he said. "The investment will be only in plant and machinery," the CEO added.

Mahesh Babu

Mr. Babu said Switch proposed to manufacture LCVs with a payload of 1.2 to 4.5 tonnes and gross vehicle weight of 2.5 to 7.5 tonnes for cargo and fleet management companies.

Gold imports said to plunge 79% in Dec. as price rise hits demand

Reuters
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

India's gold imports in December plunged 79% from a year earlier to the lowest level in at least two decades for the month as a rally in local prices to almost a record high dampened demand, government sources told Reuters.

Lower imports by the world's second-biggest consumer of the metal could limit gains in global prices trading at almost the highest in eight months.

The drop in imports could help in bringing down India's trade deficit and support the rupee.

India imported 20 tonnes in December, a sharp decrease from 95 tonnes a year earlier, said a government official.

In value terms, December imports plunged to $1.18 billion from $4.73 billion a year earlier, he said.

India's 2022 gold imports slid to 706 tonnes from 1,068 tonnes a year earlier, another government official said.

Tata group eyeing India, Europe for EV battery plants

Reuters
GREATER NOIDA

The Tata group is considering setting up plants in India and Europe to manufacture battery cells for electric vehicles (EV), the chief financial officer of its auto unit told Reuters.

With a total sales of 50,000 electric cars to date, Tata Motors dominates India's EV market.

Localising cell manufacturing for EV batteries is key to increasing local components in electric cars and will help the automaker develop a local supply chain too, Tata Motors' P.B. Balaji said on the sidelines of Auto Expo.

Alibaba said to sell 50% in Paytm parent for ₹535.9 a share

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Chinese conglomerate Alibaba is learnt to have sold a 3.1% stake – almost half of its direct shareholding – in the digital financial services firm One97 Communications in an indication of exiting the Indian market, sources said.

However, Alibaba group firm Ant Financial has not diluted its stake in Paytm and continues to hold 25% of the company.

"There was a big movement in Paytm's stock today as a block deal took place where 2,59,930 shares were sold at ₹535.90 worth ₹13.93 crore," a source closely watching the development at Paytm told PTI. "Chinese group Alibaba is behind the deal, selling up to 3.1% of its total equity of about 6%."

The development follows Alibaba's stake sales in BigBasket and Zomato.

"Alibaba seems to be exiting from India as it has sold shares in other investments," the source added.

SEBI permits multiple deals in same commodity

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator SEBI allowed stock exchanges to introduce multiple contracts in the same commodity in a bid to encourage broader participation of investors in commodity derivatives market.

This would come into force with immediate effect, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said in a circular.

The move came after the exchanges expressed concerns that due to the requirement of a single contract on a particular commodity, investor participation was limited.

HCL Q3 net profit rises 19%, firm trims FY23 revenue outlook

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

HCL Technologies on Thursday reported a 19% increase in consolidated net profit to ₹4,096 crore for the quarter ended December, compared with a year earlier.

Revenue from operations rose 19.6% to ₹26,700 crore, the firm said in a media conference on Thursday. It bagged 17 large deals, with total contract value of new deal wins at $2.35 billion, up 10%. The firm forecast full-year revenue growth between 13.5%-14%, compared with an earlier view of 13.5%-14.5%.

C. Vijayakumar

"We have delivered a strong performance... across... revenue growth, margin expansion, deal pipeline and people," said C. Vijayakumar, CEO and MD.

HCL added 5,892 freshers. Attrition dipped to 21.7% from 23.8% in the previous quarter.

(With Reuters inputs)

MISSING OUT

Former finalist Cilic out of Australian Open due to injury

Former finalist Marin Cilic has withdrawn from the Australian Open owing to a knee injury. Cilic, 34, was a runner-up in Melbourne in 2018 when he lost to Roger Federer in the final. "Not a great start to 2023 and few tough days in Melbourne," he wrote on Twitter on Thursday.

DRAMATIC DECISION

Australia pulls the plug on its ODI series against Afghanistan

Cricket Australia on Thursday announced it had withdrawn from the ODI series against Afghanistan citing Taliban's growing restrictions on women and girls. Australia was slated to take on Afghanistan in a three-match ODI series as part of the ICC Super League in the UAE in March.

LEADING THE CHARGE

Santner to helm New Zealand in T20Is series against India

Mitchell Santner will lead New Zealand for the three-match T20I series against India this month. **The squad:** Mitchell Santner, Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Dane Cleaver, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Lockie Ferguson, Ben Lister, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Rippon, Henry Shipley, Ish Sodhi, Blair Tickner.

MAKING IT COUNT

Former England batter Ballance stars on Zimbabwe debut

Zimbabwe beat Ireland by five wickets on Thursday to win the opening T20I with former England batter Gary Ballance making 30 on his debut for the hosts.
The scores: Ireland 114 in 19.2 overs lost to Zimbabwe 118/5 in 18 overs (S. Williams 34 n.o., G. Ballance 30). **Toss**: Zimbabwe.

New-look India aims to begin campaign with a win

Spain, one of the youngest sides in the fray with an astute coach looking to build a team for the future, will not be an easy opponent, the usual, overwhelming crowd support notwithstanding

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

When India regained an Olympic medal after 41 years at Tokyo, it re-ignited hopes that a World Cup medal too was not impossible. A lot has changed since then for and with the team – in terms of personnel and results.

Runner-up at the 2022 Commonwealth Games sounds good until one looks at the hammering by Australia in the final.

Bench strength tested

A third-place finish at the Asian Champions Trophy and the Asia Cup with largely young and inexperienced squads meant that while the bench was tested, the senior players had to make do with the handful of Pro League games for match-practice.

None of it would matter when India lines up against Spain for its opening World Cup game at the brand new, still-getting-finishing touches Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium here on Friday. Like the venue, the team would be raring for a fresh start.

It won't be an easy outing, though. Spain is one of the youngest sides in the fray but with an astute coach looking to build a team for the future. India won the meeting at the Tokyo Olympics, but since then the teams have shared honours in the last four Pro League games – all in Bhubaneswar.

For a team that traditionally tends to start slow and gradually pick up momentum, India will have to fire from the beginning here.

In captain Alvaro Iglesias, Enrique Gonzalez and Argentine import Joaquin Menini, Spain has the experience and in Max Caldas, a coach who knows India well – he was with the Dutch last time around, ending India's campaign in the quarterfinals and reaching the final.

In his limited time with Spain so far, he has shown he is not afraid to experiment with strategies.

"It is a bit difficult to tell how much influence past results have but I think it gives us confidence. For most of our players it is the first World Cup and that can be a different feeling from the Pro League," Caldas said.

Nice mix

The host has a mix of youth and experience and the seniors, including Manpreet Singh, Harmanpreet Singh and Akashdeep Singh, will be expected to guide the youngsters.

The biggest advantage, of course, would be the crowd.

The stadium is sold-out and the Odisha public has always been vocal in its support.

Girding the loins: Sukhjit Singh, left, and Lalit Upadhyay at India's practice session on Thursday. Special Arrangement

World Cup group stage schedule

Date	Fixture	Time (IST)
January 13	Argentina vs South Africa	1 p.m.
	Australia vs France	3 p.m.
	England vs Wales	5 p.m.
	India vs Spain	**7 p.m.**
January 14	New Zealand vs Chile	1 p.m.
	Netherlands vs Malaysia	3 p.m.
	Belgium vs Korea	5 p.m.
	Germany vs Japan	7 p.m.
January 15	Spain vs Wales	5 p.m.
	England vs India	**7 p.m.**
January 16	Malaysia vs Chile	1 p.m.
	New Zealand vs Netherlands	3 p.m.
	France vs South Africa	5 p.m.
	Argentina vs Australia	7 p.m.
January 17	Korea vs Japan	5 p.m.
	Germany vs Belgium	7 p.m.
January 19	Malaysia vs New Zealand	1 p.m.
	Netherlands vs Chile	3 p.m.
	Spain vs England	5 p.m.
	India vs Wales	**7 p.m.**
January 20	Australia vs South Africa	1 p.m.
	France vs Argentina	3 p.m.
	Belgium vs Japan	5 p.m.
	Korea vs Germany	7 p.m.

Belgium will be full of confidence; Germany keen to reverse its fortunes

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Four top sides in pools A and B will follow different mantras when they take the turf on the opening day of the 15th Hockey World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium here on Friday.

Having won World, Olympic, European and Pro League titles, Belgium, placed in Group B, will be full of confidence on its happy hunting ground. With a bunch of world-beaters like Tom Boon, Vincent Vanash, Felix Denayar, John-John Dohmen and Alexander Hendrickx at its disposal, the hungry Red Lions want to embrace the pressure of defending its crown.

Germany, which earned its last gold medal in 2006 and last podium finish in 2010, will be determined to reverse its medal-less finish in the last two editions.

Studded with some gifted players – including Niklas Wellen, Alexander Stadler, Christopher Ruhr and Mats Grambusch and Argentine drag-flicker Gonzalo Peillat (who switched nationality and will play for a second country in the event) – Germany will look to get back to winning ways.

Asia Cup winner Korea will rely on a mix of youth and experience, while Asian Games champion Japan will showcase a young side.

Set for action: With a bunch of world-beaters at its disposal, Belgium will hope to embrace the pressure of defending its crown. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In Pool-A, World No. 1 and three-time champion Australia, smarting from its narrow losses in the World Cup and Olympics, is working to hold its nerve in crunch situations to win a record-equalling World title.

The Commonwealth Games champion, comprising seasoned hands including Eddie Ockenden, Aran Zalewski, Blake Govers and Jeremy Hayward, needs to raise its level.

Inspired by its football team's World Cup win, 2016 Olympic gold medallist Argentina nurtures its ambition of becoming a World champion. Multiple World Cuppers Matias Rey, Lucas Villa and Augstin Mazzilli provide solidity to the squad consisting of talented youngsters.

France will try to improve for its home Olympics next year, while Nations Cup champion South Africa will bank on its newfound enthusiasm to secure a memorable outing.

Kuldeep, Rahul help India seal series; Sri Lanka starts well but loses way

SRI LANKA IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
KOLKATA

The Eden Gardens did not witness a high-scoring match like Barsapara. The result, though, was no different with India sealing the series with a four-wicket win.

Kuldeep Yadav bamboozled the Sri Lankan batters to help India bundle out Sri Lanka for 215. K.L. Rahul's sedate fifty and his 75-run association with Hardik Pandya for the fifth wicket meant India crossed the line in the 44th over.

The Lankan pacers put up an excellent display on Thursday and pegged India back to 86 for four. With no pressure of the scoreboard – and the dew starting to play a part in the outfield – Rahul and Hardik played risk-free cricket to put India on the verge of a win.

While Hardik chased a wide one from Chamika Karunaratne – similar to the one chased by captain Rohit Sharma early on – Rahul hung on and finished the game with Kuldeep for company.

Fitting finish

Kuldeep fittingly finished the game with a tennis-ball swat off Lahiru Kumara for a four. After all, he had virtually sealed the fate of the game with the ball.

When Kuldeep, who got a look-in only because Yuzvendra Chahal was ruled out due to a sore shoulder, was introduced into the attack in the 17th over, the islanders were in a dominant position.

Spinning a web: Kuldeep broke Sri Lanka's momentum with his three-wicket haul, here he celebrates Shanaka's dismissal. K.R. DEEPAK

At 99 for one, debutant Nuwanidu Fernando and Kusal Mendis had already put on 70 runs in 10 overs after Avishka Fernando played Mohammed Siraj onto his stumps in the PowerPlay.

It took Kuldeep just six balls to break the association. Mendis could not read the left-arm wrist-spinner's googly and was plumb in front. Then on, it was a carnage for the next half hour as India earned five wickets for just 24 runs off 45 balls to leave Sri Lanka reeling at 126 for six from a comfortable 102 for one.

Dhananjaya de Silva misread his first ball in Axar Patel's over to be bowled off his pads; captain Dasun Shanaka missed a sweep off Kuldeep to see his leg-stump being uprooted and Charith Asalanka misread a wrong 'un to offer a dolly to Kuldeep on his follow-through.

In between, Nuwanidu was stranded in the middle of the pitch, thanks to Shubman Gill's excellence in the field. Despite the lower-order showing a bit of resilience, the damage by the spinners was too much for Sri Lanka as it folded up for 215 with more than 10 overs remaining.

The premature closure of the innings meant that the host association was forced to postpone the laser show – originally planned during the innings break – till the end of the match. In the end, the majority of 50,000-plus Kolkatans stayed back to celebrate their team's win, despite a stutter.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Avishka Fernando b Siraj 20 (*17b, 4x4*), Nuwanidu Fernando run out 50 (*63b, 6x4*), Kusal Mendis lbw b Kuldeep 34 (*34b, 3x4, 1x6*), Dhananjaya de Silva b Axar 0 (*1b*), Charith Asalanka c & b Kuldeep 15 (*21b, 1x4*), Dasun Shanaka b Kuldeep 2 (*4b*), Wanindu Hasaranga c Axar b Umran 21 (*17b, 3x4, 1x6*), Dunith Wellalage c Axar b Siraj 32 (*34b, 3x4, 1x6*), Chamika Karunaratne c Axar b Umran 17 (*25b, 3x4*), Kasun Rajitha (not out) 17 (*21b, 3x4*), Lahiru Kumara b Siraj 0 (*2b*); Extras (lb-1, w-5, nb-1): 7; Total (in 39.4 overs): 215.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-29 (Avishka, 5.6 overs), 2-102 (Mendis, 16.6), 3-103 (Dhananjaya, 17.2), 4-118 (Nuwanidu, 21.1), 5-125 (Shanaka, 22.5), 6-126 (Asalanka, 24.2), 7-152 (Hasaranga, 27.5), 8-177 (Karunaratne, 33.6), 9-215 (Wellalage, 39.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Shami 7-0-43-0, Siraj 5.4-0-30-3, Hardik 5-0-26-0, Umran 7-0-48-2, Kuldeep 10-0-51-3, Axar 5-0-16-1.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Mendis b Karunaratne 17 (*21b, 2x4, 1x6*), Shubman Gill c Avishka b Kumara 21 (*12b, 5x4*), Virat Kohli b Kumara 4 (*9b, 1x4*), Shreyas Iyer lbw b Rajitha 28 (*33b, 5x4*), K.L. Rahul (not out) 64 (*103b, 6x4*), Hardik Pandya c Mendis b Karunaratne 36 (*53b, 4x4*), Axar Patel c Karunaratne b Dhananjaya 21 (*21b, 1x4, 1x6*), Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 10 (*10b, 2x4*); Extras (lb-3, w-13, nb-2): 18; Total (for six wkts. in 43.2 overs): 219.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-33 (Rohit, 4.6), 2-41 (Gill, 5.3), 3-62 (Kohli, 9.3), 4-86 (Shreyas, 14.2), 5-161 (Hardik, 34.1), 6-191 (Axar, 39.5).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Rajitha 9-0-46-1, Kumara 9.2-0-64-2, Karunaratne 8-0-51-2, Hasaranga 10-0-28-0, Wellalage 2-0-12-0, Shanaka 2-0-6-0, Dhananjaya 3-0-9-1.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Player-of-the-match: Kuldeep.

India won by four wickets with 40 balls remaining to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in three-match series.

Third and final ODI: January 15, Thiruvananthapuram, 1.30 p.m.

England favourite against Wales

Ashin Prasad
ROURKELA

While all the eyes are on India's World Cup opener in the late push-off, England and Wales will be tasked with warming up the crowd in the first-ever game at the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in a Group D clash here on Friday. England will be the favourites against the tournament debutant Wales.

Wales co-captain Rupert Shipperley was part of the recent Pro League campaign with Team GB. Jacob Draper is the other player who has been involved with Team GB in the past.

England coach Paul Revington said, "Great Britain is always a unique entity. Everyone's in the same locker room one week, and then they're playing against each other. We have full respect for all the Welsh players."

Nearly every Wales player or staff spoken to on the match eve has reiterated that they are 'not here to make up the numbers.'

"We want to give our best to win the games. We are here to entertain and win hockey games. There is no pressure on us," said Wales head coach Danny Newcombe.

While Newcombe described the team's style as a system-based approach, he will need to devise a plan to thwart England's strong midfield and attack. Wales will rely on defender Gareth Furlong's drag-flick ability as the key source of goals.

INBRIEF

World No. 1 Alcaraz to return at Argentina Open

Injured World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz will return to tennis at the Argentina Open in February, after being forced to miss this the Australian Open. The 19-year-old Spaniard last week said he was pulling out of the year's first Grand Slam due to a freak leg injury suffered in training.

Olympic champs Cesar, Lopez first Cubans in WBC rankings

Double Olympic champions Julio Cesar La Cruz and Arlen Lopez have become the first boxers from Cuba to be ranked by one of the sport's professional world governing bodies, the World Boxing Council. Cuba has long prevented its athletes from turning professional, but things have been changing in recent years. Boxing is a source of national pride for Cuba, which has won 41 Olympic titles and 80 world crowns.

Kyrgios becomes co-owner of Australian basketball team

Tennis star Nick Kyrgios became part-owner of Australian basketball side South East Melbourne Phoenix on Thursday. Kyrgios has been a long-time basketball fan and joins an ownership group that includes Los Angeles Clippers player John Wall. Kyrgios is close friends with the National Basketball League team's owner Romie Chaudhari and said he was thrilled to be involved.

Karnataka records a thumping 10-wicket win

Rajasthan puts up a spirited fight, going all out in the second innings, but the host overcomes the storm to all but qualify for the knockout rounds

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A resilient Karnataka withstood a spirited fight from Rajasthan to record a 10-wicket win on the third day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group 'C' encounter here on Thursday.

Rajasthan, faced with a 316-run innings deficit, took the attack to the Karnataka bowlers in the second essay. Mahipal Lomror (99, 83b, 11x4, 6x6), Aditya Garhwal (66, 66b, 9x4, 2x6) and S.V. Joshi (63, 79b, 4x4, 2x6) went all-out, but it was not enough to stop Karnataka from recording a third win in five outings.

Fast bowler Vyshak Vijaykumar (4/73) and off-spinner K. Gowtham (3/72) overcame the storm to help Karnataka dismiss Rajasthan for 330. Vyshak capped a memorable outing with an eight-for match-haul.

Karnataka knocked off the 15-run target in five overs. The home side, the table topper with 26 points, has all but qualified for the knockout rounds.

Resuming on 380 for eight, Karnataka added vital runs thanks to an attacking century from Manish Pandey. Pandey, who scored a double hundred in the Goa outing a couple of weeks ago, showed great acumen to shepherd the strike with the tailenders.

Eight-drop Vidwath Kaverappa (37, 58b, 5x4, 1x6) provided able company, prolonging Rajasthan's wait on the field.

In roaring form: Karnataka added vital runs thanks to an attacking century from Manish Pandey.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Rajasthan took a refreshingly bold approach when batting. Southpaw opener Lomror set the tone, flaying the pacers for sixes to long-on, extra-cover and deep square-leg. Anything overpitched or short was dealt with severely by Lomror.

Lomror missed his century by one run, when he edged a delivery from Vyshak. Lomror was unhappy with the send-off given by the bowler, and had to be pacified by Karnataka fielder Shreyas Gopal.

One-drop Garhwal impressed with a few classical drives. Wicketkeeper-batter Joshi hit a couple of big sixes, taking Rajasthan to 299 for five.

Like he has done many times in his career, Gowtham triggered a collapse in the last hour of the day. Gowtham removed Joshi, K.S. Rathore and Arafat Khan in quick time to set Karnataka on course for victory.

Rajasthan skipper Ashok Menaria, who sustained an injury while fielding, was unable to bat.

The score:

Rajasthan — 1st innings: 129.

Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth c Rathore b Choudhary 8, Mayank Agarwal c Kothari b Arafat 52, Devdutt Padikkal b Choudhary 32, Nikin Jose c Menaria b Suthar 39, Manish Pandey st Joshi b Suthar 101, Shreyas Gopal c Kothari b Choudhary 95, Srinivas Sharath b Suthar 42, K. Gowtham c Joshi b Choudhary 7, Vyshak Vijaykumar lbw b Suthar 1, Vidwath Kaverappa b Khan 37, V. Koushik (n.o.) 5, Extras (b-9, lb-13, nb-4): 26; Total (in 132.1 overs): 445.

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-88, 3-111, 4-171, 5-280, 6-343, 7-351, 8-354, 9-411.

Rajasthan bowling: Choudhary 36-8-110-4, Rituraj 23-7-53-0, Arafat 24.1-1-98-2, Suthar 41-5-132-4, Lomror 8-0-30-0.

Rajasthan — 2nd innings: Yash Kothari b Vyshak 10, Mahipal Lomror c Sharath b Vyshak 99, Aditya Garhwal lbw Koushik 66, Karan Lamba c Sharath b Koushik 19, S.V. Joshi lbw b Gowtham 63, Manav Suthar c Padikkal b Vyshak 8, Rituraj Singh (n.o.) 30, Kunal Rathore c&b Gowtham 0, Arafat Khan b Gowtham 19, Aniket Choudhary c Mayank b Vyshak 8, Ashok Menaria (absent hurt) 0, Extras (w-1, lb-7): 8; Total (in 65.4 overs): 330.

Fall of wickets: 1-58, 2-162, 3-196, 4-225, 5-252, 6-299, 7-299, 8-321, 9-330.

Bowling: Kaverappa 13-1-60-0; Koushik 15-1-66-2; Vyshak 11.4-0-73-4; Gowtham 19-1-72-3; Shreyas 7-0-52-0.

Karnataka — 2nd innings: R. Samarth (not out) 5, Mayank Agarwal (not out) 10, Extras: 0; Total (for no loss, in 5 overs): 15.

Rajasthan bowling: Arafat Khan 3-0-10-0, Manav Suthar 2-0-5-0.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES (ROUND FIVE, DAY THREE)

Elite: Group A: Baroda 269 & 98 in 44 overs (Pratyush Kumar 62 n.o., Mukesh Kumar 4/43) vs. Bengal 191 in 59.3 overs (Anustup Majumdar 90, Sahejadkhan Pathan 5/48) & 53/3 in 28.3 overs.
Nagaland 88 & 72 in 23 overs (Amit Rana 7/24) lost to Haryana 229/7 decl. in 49 overs (Yuvraj Singh 75, Imliwati Lemtur 4/76).
Points: Haryana 7 (12), Nagaland 0 (1).
Odisha 191 & 374 in 95.5 overs (Govinda Poddar 135, Prayash Singh 73, Suryakant Pradhan 50 n.o.) vs. Himachal Pradesh 258.
Uttar Pradesh 142 in 67.5 overs (Sameer Choudhary 49, Agrim Tiwari 4/27) vs. Uttarakhand 65/2 in 19 overs.
Group B: Mumbai 687/4 decl. vs. Assam 370 in 108.1 overs (Subham Mandal 40, Rahul Hazarika 79, Rishav Das 75, Gokul Sharma 70, Abhishek Thakuri 51, Shams Mulani 4/111) & 36/5 in 11 overs.
Andhra 459/9 decl. vs. Delhi 300/4 in 93 overs (Dhruv Shorey 142 batting, Hrithik Shokeen 45, Himmat Singh 45 batting).
Maharashtra 446 & 104/3 in 26 overs (Rahul Tripathi 61) vs. Tamil Nadu 404 in 118.5 overs (N. Jagadeesan 77, B. Indrajith 47, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 84, Vijay Shankar 107).
Group C: Jharkhand 103 & 366 in 100.3 overs (Aryaman Sen 85, Kumar Suraj 51, Virat Singh 63, Kumar Kushagra 41, Saurabh Tiwary 78, Ravi Kiran 4/60) vs. Chhattisgarh 113 & 139/4 in 60 overs (Amandeep Khare 40 batting).
Rajasthan 129 & 330 in 65.4 overs (Mahipal Lomror 99, Aditya Garhwal 66, Samarpit Joshi 63, Vijaykumar Vyshak 4/73) lost to Karnataka 445 in 132.1 overs (Mayank Agarwal 52, Manish Pandey 101, Shreyas Gopal 95, Srinivas Sharath 42, Aniket Choudhary 4/110, Manav Suthar 4/132) & 15/0 in 5 overs.
Karnataka 7 (26), Rajasthan 0 (14).
Kerala 327 & 242/7 decl. in 60 overs (Vathsal Govind 48, Sachin Baby 93, Salman Nizar 40) vs. Services 229 in 68.1 overs (Ravi Chauhan 50) & 20/0 in 7 overs.
Goa 223 & 167 in 58.3 overs (Snehal Kauthankar 49, Ankit Sharma 6/61) lost to Pondicherry 347 in 107 overs (K.B. Arun Karthik 122, Ankit Sharma 78, Darshan Misal 5/111) & 46/1 in 19.1 overs. **Pondicherry 6 (6), Goa 0 (11).**
Group D: Jammu & Kashmir 212 in 54.1 overs (Vivrant Sharma 41, Abdul Samad 46, Fazil Rashid 46, Baltej Singh 5/47, Siddarth Kaul 4/82) & 18/1 in 6 overs vs. Punjab 268 in 61.2 overs (Mandeep Singh 69, Gurnoor Brar 64).
Vidarbha 307/6 decl. in 73.2 overs (Sanjay Raghunath 133, Atharva Taide 76, Nachiket Bhute 46) vs. Chandigarh 16/1 in 5 overs.
Madhya Pradesh 312 & 189/2 in 55 overs (Himanshu Mantri 65, Shubham Sharma 46 batting) vs. Gujarat 211/9 in 79.2 overs (Priyank Panchal 71 retd. hurt, Manan Hingrajia 66).
Tripura 96 & 304/4 in 104 overs (Bishal Ghosh 42, Bikramkumar Das 62, Sudip Chatterjee 104 batting, Rajat Dey 77 batting) vs. Railways 337 in 109.1 overs (Shivam Chaudhary 70, Pratham Singh 79, Yuvraj Singh 74, Akash Pandey 57 n.o., Deepak Khatri 4/46).
Plate: Arunachal Pradesh 213 & 61 in 26.1 overs (Lee Yong Lepcha 5/17, Tarun Sharma 4/16) lost to Sikkim 532 in 125.4 overs (Ashish Thapa 150, Sumit Singh 133, Palzor Tamang 106, Ankur Malik 43 n.o., Nabam Abo 4/156).
Sikkim 7 (20), Arunachal 0 (0).
Meghalaya 157 & 91 lost to Manipur 220 & 29/2 in 9 overs.
Manipur 6 (20), Meghalaya 0 (25).
Bihar 474 vs. Mizoram 176 in 52.2 overs (Shreevats Goswami 79, Sachin Kumar 4/24) & 144/3 in 46 overs (Taruwar Kohli 67 batting, Shreevats Goswami 49).

LIVE TELECAST

BWF Malaysia Open: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30 a.m. & 12.30 p.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Pakistan vs New Zealand: 3rd ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3 p.m.
Hockey World Cup 2023: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Ruling Goddess expected to score in feature event

BENGALURU: Ruling Goddess, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the J.B. Mallaradhya Memorial Trophy (1,600m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Friday (Jan 13).
False rails (width about 9.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 HOOGHLY PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 1.15 p.m.: 1. Altamonte (11) Vivek 60, 2. Sweet Kiss (4) Darshan 60, 3. Master Of Success (12) Sai Kiran 59.5, 4. The Intruder (3) R. Pradeep 59.5, 5. Benignity (8) P. Ramesh 59, 6. Marco Polo (1) R. Ajinkya 58.5, 7. Estella (6) Likith Appu 57.5, 8. Chandra Kanta (7) Tousif 56, 9. Perfect Halo (10) Kiran Rai 56, 10. Red Lucifer (9) Srinath 56, 11. Max Mueller (5) L.A. Rozario 54.5 and 12. Regal Force (-) (-) 53.
1. ESTELLA,
2. MASTER OF SUCCESS,
3. PERFECT HALO

2 MAHADAYI PLATE (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 1.45: 1. Aircraft (10) D. Patel 60, 2. Embosom (7) L.A. Rozario 59, 3. Sea Blush (8) Srinath 58, 4. Christopher Wren (1) Tousif 57.5, 5. Limited Edition (4) R. Ajinkya 57.5, 6. Art Power (11) Sandesh 57, 7. Stunning Beauty (6) Sai Kiran 57, 8. Baroness (3) Kiran Rai 56, 9. Emeraldo (9) Rayan 56, 10. Ring Master (2) R. Pradeep 56 and 11. Mega Success (5) Salman K 55.5.
1. ART POWER,
2. SEA BLUSH,
3. BARONESS

3 MURUDESHWARA PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 2.15: 1. Stars Above (7) S. John 60, 2. Princess Jasmine (2) L.A. Rozario 59.5, 3. Oxytocin (8) Sai Kiran 59, 4. Peridot (10) Likith Appu 59, 5. The Pirate (6) R. Pradeep 59, 6. Empress Bella (5) Tousif 58.5, 7. Oasis Class (1) R. Ajinkya 58.5, 8. Twilight Fame (9) Kiran Rai 58, 9. Meghann (3) B. Nayak 57.5 and 10. Double Vision (4) Salman K 56.5.
1. OXYTOCIN,
2. PRINCESS JASMINE,
3. STAR ABOVE

4 KALLATHIGIRI FALLS PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 2.45: 1. Balor (9) S. John 60.5, 2. Galloping Ahead (4) Srinath 60, 3. Almanach (5) Likith Appu 58.5, 4. Armory (2) Kiran Rai 57, 5. Ripple N Storm (7) Akshay K 56.5, 6. Opus One (3) L.A. Rozario 56, 7. El Alamein (8) Rayan 55, 8. Pazel (1) Darshan 55 and 9. Raffles (6) Tousif 54.
1. RIPPLE N STORM,
2. BALOR, 3. OPUS ONE

5 MURUDESHWARA PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 3.15: 1. Isnt She Beautiful (4) Sandesh 62.5, 2. Lauterbrunnen (1) Kiran Rai 61, 3. Aguila (8) Akshay K 60, 4. Archway (5) Trevor 57, 5. Striking Point (7) Adarsh 57, 6. Knotty In Blue (9) Nazerul 56.5, 7. Masteroftheskies (3) Sai Kiran 55, 8. Ozark (6) Janardhan P 54.5 and 9. Chinky Pinky (2) R. Pradeep 54.
1. ISNT SHE BEAUTIFUL, 2. ARCHWAY, 3. AQUILA

6 CORDON BLEU TROPHY (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3;45: 1. Galahad (5) Trevor 56, 2. Mazal Tov (3) Srinath 56, 3. Prana (6) Akshay K 56, 4. Sir Tristan (7) Vaibhav 56, 5. Vyasa (1) Sandesh 56, 6. Last Waltz (2) Salman K 54.5, 7. Marquita (4) Arshad 54.5 and 8. Momentous (8) Darshan 54.5.
1. GALAHAD,
2. MAZAL TOV, 3. PRANA

7 J.B. MALLARADHYA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 4.15: 1. Capable (6) L.A. Rozario 62.5, 2. Ruling Goddess (2) Trevor 60, 3. Etosha (3) Likith Appu 59, 4. Four Wheel Drive (4) Srinath 56, 5. Peluche (5) Darshan 55, 6. Millbrook (8) Salman K 52.5, 7. Shubankar (7) Akshay K 52.5 and 8. Eco Friendly (1) Sai Kiran 50.
1. RULING GODDESS,
2. SHUBANKAR,
3. CAPABLE

8 MAHADAYI PLATE (Div. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 4.45: 1. The Omega Man (8) Naveen K 62.5, 2. Super Ruffian (2) Indrajeet S 60, 3. Classic Charm (9) Akshay K 59, 4. Pastiche (7) Darshan 58.5, 5. See My Heels (12) Rayan 58.5, 6. Dr Logan (5) L.A. Rozario 58, 7. Rhapsody In Green (10) D. Patel 58, 8. Klockner (11) Salman K 57.5, 9. Lycurgus (6) Sai Kiran 57.5, 10. Recreator (1) Adarsh 57, 11. Augusto (3) Arshad 56 and 12. Bramastram (4) Nazerul 55.
1. CLASSIC CHARM,
2. SUPER RUFFIAN,
3. AUGUSTO

9 HOOGHLY PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 5.15: 1. Air Display (6) L.A. Rozario 62.5, 2. Gunmaster (8) B. Nayak 62.5, 3. Spirit Dancer (10) Darshan 62.5, 4. Altair (4) Sai Kiran 62, 5. Rudram (2) Nazerul 61.5, 6. Ultimate Chance (3) A. Imran 61.5, 7. Chiraag (7) Tousif 60.5, 8. Cash Out (5) S. John 60, 9. Phoenix Surprise (1) Arshad 59.5, 10. Artiana (12) Salman K 59, 11. Sacred Creator (9) Kiran Rai 58 and 12. Comeonson (11) Likith Appu 57.5.
1. AIR DISPLAY, 2. CASH OUT, 3. ULTIMATE CHANCE
Day's best: **ART POWER**
Double: **RIPPLE N STORM - ISNT SHE BEAUTIFUL**
Jkt: 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6; (iii): 7, 8 and 9.

Karnataka girls clinch the epee team title

Sports Bureau
KOCHI

Haryana bagged the boys sabre and foil team golds in the 24th National sub-junior fencing championship at the Rajiv Gandhi indoor stadium here on Thursday.

Karnataka took the girls' epee team title.

Final placings (team events):

Boys: Sabre: 1. Haryana, 2. Tamil Nadu, 3. J&K & Manipur.
Foil: 1. Haryana, 2. Manipur, 3. TN & Maharashtra.
Girls: Epee: 1. Karnataka, 2. Maharashtra, 3, Manipur & Chandigarh.
Individual events: Boys: Epee: 1. Saiprasad Jangwad (Mah), 2. Gaurav Chaudhary (Del), 3. Aditya Singh (Del) & B. Bejino Steffin (TN).
Foil: 1. Sachin (Har), 2. Karan Chaudhary (MP), 3. K. Prithibaj Singh (Man) & M. Nifin Raj (TN).
Girls: Epee: 1. P. Pavani (Kar), 2. Janvi Jadav (Mah), 3. L. Yuktha Siri (Ker) & Nibber Agamjot Kaur (Man).
Foil: 1. Prachi (Har), 2. T. Melemnganbi (Man), 3. Hirlal Verma (Har) & Navisha Bhardwaj (Har).
Sabre: 1. Srishti Singh (Har), 2. Sakshi Kapoor (Har), 3. Priya Ningomnbam (Man) & Pebam Babydina (Man).

BENGALURU ROUND UP

Karnataka names Ranji squad to face Kerala

Karnataka named a 15-man squad, sans Vishal Onat, for the Ranji Trophy match against Kerala to be held in Thiruvananthapuram from January 17 to 20.

The squad:
Mayank Agarwal (Capt.), R. Samarth (Vice-capt.), Devdutt Padikkal, S.J. Nikin Jose, Manish Pandey, K.V. Siddharth, B.R. Sharath, Sharath Srinivas, K. Gowtham, Shreyas Gopal, V. Koushik, Vidwath Kaverappa, V. Vyshak, M. Venkatesh and Shubhang Hegde.

Veda to lead Karnataka

Veda Krishnamurthy will lead Karnataka in the BCCI Senior Women's One Day Trophy in Mumbai from Jan. 18 to 29.

The team: Veda Krishnamurthy (Capt.), Divya Gnanananda (Vice-capt.), Shubha Satheesh, C. Prathyusha, K. Prathyoosha, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, V. Chandu, Sahana S. Pawar, Monica C. Patel, Vrinda Dinesh, Shreyanka R. Patil, Aditi Rajesh, Sanjana Batni, Pushpa Kiresur and Roshini Kiran.

Sahaj shines as Titans beat Warriors

Sahaj Patel top-scored with 22 points as Mumbai Titans defeated Chandigarh Warriors 79-71 on day one of the final phase of the Indian National Basketball League at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium on Thursday.

The results: Delhi Dribblers 84 (Lokendra Singh 20, Prashanth Singh 16, Harsh Dagar 15) bt Kochi Tigers 78 (Lalrina 28, Sijjin Mathew 16, Jishnu 11).
Mumbai Titans 79 (Sahaj Patel 22, Syed Mohammed 19, Sameer Qaurshi 11) bt Chandigarh Warriors 71 (Gurbar Singh 20, Saheel 14).

Ankit scores hat-trick

Ankit scored a hat-trick as Young Star HC Raichur beat Blue & White HC 4-1 in the KSHA-A division hockey league on Thursday.

The result: Young Star HC Raichur 4 (Ankit 28, 35, 48, Mohd. Talib 50) bt Blue & White HC 1 (Ajay 10).

Badminton tournament

Bitsport, the promoting company of Grand Prix Badminton League, will conduct the Republic Day Cup veterans tournament on January 21 and 22 at the Level Up Academy, Halanayakanahalli. Events will be held in three age categories – above-40, 45 and 50 for both men and women. Contact: punit@bitsport.in or call 9008 211465.

Beauty Blaze claims B. Vijay Reddy Memorial Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer Nilesh Rawal's Beauty Blaze (Santosh Raj N R up) claimed the upper division of the B. Vijay Reddy Memorial Cup, the main event of Thursday's (Jan. 12) races.
The winner is owned by Mr. Md. Kashif Ali Khan. Trainer Leo D' Silva stole the limelight by saddling four winners of the day, while jockey Afroz Khan rode three winners.

1. BUSINESS TYCOON PLATE: ROYAL PAL (R.S. Jodha) 1, Silver Lining (Md. Ekram Alam) 2, Track Blazer (Santosh Raj) 3 and It's My Life (B. Nikhil) 4. Hd, 1 and 1/2. 1m 28. 17s. ₹35 (w), 16, 12 and 85 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 116, SHW: 26 and 22, FP: 165, Q: 99, Tanala: 3,543. Favourite: Jack Daniel.
Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

2. ATTRACTRESS PLATE: KENAF (Afroz Khan) 1, Happy Soul (Surya Prakash) 2, Rising Tycoon (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Clare (A.A. Vikrant) 4. Not run: Eminency. 4-3/4, 2-3/4 and 3/4. 1m 6. 03s. ₹89 (w), 20, 19 and 10 (p). SHP: 44, THP: 71, SHW: 47 and 19, FP: 827, Q: 343, Tanala: 1,470. Favourite: Rising Tycoon.
Owners: Mr. Harisharan Devgan, Mr. Rajesh Sanghani & Mr. G.B.R. Prasad. Trainer: L.D' Silva.

3. TWIN STAR CUP (DIV. II): ALPINE GIRL (Shivansh) 1, Siri (G. Naresh) 2, Keep Faith (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Golden Inzio (Akshay Kumar) 4. 3-3/4, 3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 27. 11s. ₹195 (w), 29, 28 and 16 (p). SHP: 109, THP: 46, SHW: 34 and 101, FP: 2,024, Q: 1,067, Tanala: 11,881. Favourite: Golden Inzio.
Owner: Mr. Nirmal Singh. Trainer: Jasbir Singh.

4. TWIN STAR CUP (DIV. I): SALISBURY (Akshay Kumar) 1, Explosive (Aneel) 2, Power Ranger (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Lady Danger (D.S. Deora) 4. 4-1/4, 1-1/4 and Shd. 1m 26. 04s. ₹16 (w), 10, 31 and 17 (p). SHP: 128, THP: 48, SHW: 11 and 36, FP: 177, Q: 165, Tanala: 1,177. Favourite: Salisbury.
Owners: Mr. M. Rama Krishna Reddy, Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur, Ms. Meka Ahalya & Mr. L.D'Silva. Trainer: L.D'Silva.

5. B. VIJAY REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II): TRUE MARSHAL (Akshay Kumar) 1, Bangor On Dee (Rafique Sk.) 2, Garnet (D.S. Deora) 3 and Briar Ridge (Santosh Raj) 4. Only My Way. 2, Nk and 1-1/4. 1m 11. 61s. ₹12 (w), 10, 35 and 17 (p). SHP: 80, THP: 36, SHW: 10 and 47, FP: 99, Q: 110, Tanala: 253. Favourite: True Marshal.
Owners: Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla, Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Yohan Z. Poonawalla, Mrs. Michelle Y. Poonawalla, Ms. Delna Z. Poonawalla, Mrs. Simone Z. Poonawalla rep. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Rishad N. Pandole & Mr. Chaduranga Kantharaj Urs. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

6. ANMOL RATAN PLATE: MISS MARVELLOUS (Afroz Khan) 1, Despang (Surya Prakash) 2, Southern Act (Md. Ismail) 3 and Sun Dancer (Gaurav Singh) 4. Not run: Morior Invictus and Nightmare. Hd, 2-1/4 and 1/2. 1m 40. 00s. ₹27 (w), 14, 10 and 18 (p). SHP: 26, THP: 55, SHW: 21 and 16, FP: 68, Q: 31, Tanala: 398. Favourite: Despang.
Owners: Mr. Srinivas Pangam & Mrs. Nirupama Chodagam. Trainer: L.D'Silva.

7. B. VIJAY REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I): BEAUTY BLAZE (Santosh Raj N R) 1, Maximum Glamour (D.S. Deora) 2, Angel Tesoro (G. Naresh) 3 and The Thunder (Ashad Asbar) 4. 2-1/2, 1-1/2 and Nose 1m 11. 22s. ₹17 (w), 11, 17 and 41 (p). SHP: 45, THP: 110, SHW: 15 and 23, FP: 68, Q: 56, Tanala: 1,135. Favourite: Beauty Blaze.
Owner: Mr. Md. Kashif Ali Khan. Trainer: N. Rawal.

8. BALLERINA STAR PLATE: ROYAL STAR (Afroz Khan) 1, Fatuma (Gaurav Singh) 2, Unmatched (Surya Prakash) 3 and Big Boy (D.S. Deora) 4. Nk, 2 and 1/2. 1m 12. 61s. ₹93 (w), 30, 48 and 21 (p). SHP: 158, THP: 66, SHW: 53 and 102, FP: 2,199, Q: 767, Tanala: 7,956. Favourite: Big Boy.
Owner & Trainer: Mr. L.D'Silva.
Jackpot: 70%: ₹1,705 (237 tkts.), 30%: 71 (2,419 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: (i) 27,697 (2 tkts.), (ii) 918 (78 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 8,128 (6 tkts.), (ii) 840 (39 tkts.), (iii) 565 (93 tkts.).

Prannoy and Satwik-Chirag pair enter quarterfinals

MALAYSIA OPEN

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

H.S. Prannoy dished out another splendid show to progress to the men's singles quarterfinals with a thrilling win over Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo in the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament here on Thursday.

The World No. 8 looked in fine fettle as he staved off the spirited challenge from World No. 19 Wardoyo 21-9, 15-21, 21-16 in an hour and four minutes.

World No. 5 Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, seeded seventh, also entered the quarterfinals beating Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Bagas Maulana of Indonesia 21-19, 22-20.

Earlier, Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand fought hard before going down 13-21, 21-15, 17-21 to Bulgaria's Gabriela Stoeva and Stefani Stoeva in the women's doubles pre-quarterfinals.

The results (pre-quarterfinals):

Men: H.S. Prannoy bt Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo (Ina) 21-9, 15-21, 21-16. **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Muhammad Shohibul Fikri & Bagas Maulana (Ina) 21-19, 22-20.
Women: Doubles: Gabriela Stoeva & Stefani Stoeva (Bul) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 21-13, 15-21, 21-17.

Aishwary tops rifle 3-position event

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar beat Pankaj Mukheja 17-7 to emerge on top in 50-metre rifle 3-position event in the National shooting selection trials on Thursday.

The results: 10m air rifle:
Women: 1. Ramita Jindal 16 (262.0) 631.0; 2. Tilottama Sen 12 (262.2) 633.5; 3. Elavenil Valarivan 261.9 (629.0); 4. Nancy 260.6 (631.9).
Junior women: 1. Swati Chowdhury 16 (262.3) 630.4; 2. Devanshi Katara 10 (260.8) 630.1; 3. Sonam Maskar 260.4 (629.5); 4. Shikha Nanda 259.8 (627.4).
25m sports pistol: Women: 1. Manu Bhaker 27 (11) 590; 2. Abhidnya Patil 26 (15) 578; 3. Niveditha Nair 18 (11) 578; 4. Divya TS 13 (9) 582.
Junior women: 1. Divanshi 25 (13) 579; 2. Tejaswani 22 (13) 577; 3. Megana Sadula 16 (10) 573; 4. Payal 12 (10) 576.
50m rifle 3-position: Men: 1. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar 17 (409.0) 590; 2. Pankaj Mukheja 7 (407.3) 585; 3. Akhil Sheoran 406.0 (588); 4. Niraj Kumar 403.1 (588).
Junior men: 1. Ramanya Tomer 16 (402.4) 572; 2. Shivam Dabas 14 (404.7) 574; 3. Sartaj Singh Tiwana 400.6 (570); 4. Parikshit Singh Brar 394.7 (578).

IN BRIEF

Courtois the hero as Real sees off Valencia in shootout

Thibaut Courtois saved Jose Gaya's spot-kick to give Real Madrid a 4-3 penalty shootout win over Valencia after the teams had finished level at 1-1 after extra time in their Spanish Super Cup semifinal in Riyadh on Wednesday.

The result: Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 39-pen) drew with Valencia 1 (46) (Real won 4-3 via penalties).

Yuki & Myneni enter the Challenger semifinals

Top seeds Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni beat Dan Added and Michael Geerts 4-6, 7-5, [10-5] in the doubles quarterfinals of the $80,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Nonthaburi, Thailand, on Thursday.

The results: $80,000 Challenger, Nonthaburi: Quarterfinals: Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni bt DanAdded (Fra) & Michael Geerts (Bel) 4-6, 7-5, [10-5]; Marek Gengel & Adam Pavlasek (Cze) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-4, 6-7(5), [10-8].
$40,000 ITF women, Nonthaburi: Second round: Haruka Kaji (Jpn) bt Ankita Raina 7-5, 6-3. **Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Erika Sema (Jpn) & Rutuja Bhosale bt YuChieh Hsieh (Tpe) & Hong Yi Cody Wong (Hkg) 6-1, 6-4.

Iconic Kobe jersey could fetch up to $7 mn at auction

Sotheby's estimates that a jersey worn by US basketball legend Kobe Bryant, who died almost three years ago in a helicopter accident, will sell for up to $7 million next month, the New York auction house said on Thursday. If the early February sale reaches the upper end of Sotheby's estimates, it will nearly double the previous high of $3.7 million paid for a jersey worn by him.

Milestones ahead: Djokovic at a practice session in Melbourne on Thursday. AFP

Djokovic to play Baena on Australian Open return

Defending champion and top seed Nadal kick-starts his campaign against the promising Draper; Swiatek to meet Niemeier, Azarenka-Kenin face off

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic was on Thursday drawn to play Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena on his return to the Australian Open and could meet Nick Kyrgios in the last eight.

The Serbian, who was deported a year ago, will kick-start his bid for a 10th Melbourne title and a record-equalling 22nd Grand Slam crown against a player ranked 75th in the world.

In the absence of injured World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz, defending champion Rafael Nadal takes the top seeding and starts against Britain's promising Jack Draper.

On the women's side, top seed and World No. 1 Iga Swiatek will meet Germany's Jule Niemeier as she targets a maiden Grand Slam title in Australia.

There is an injury cloud hanging over Djokovic after he tweaked his hamstring on the way to winning the season-opening Adelaide International last week. The fourth seed is due to play a charity match against Australian Kyrgios on Friday evening and could meet him in the quarterfinals if both get that far.

Kyrgios would first potentially have to get past ninth seed Holger Rune and fifth seed Andrey Rublev.

Second seed Casper Ruud, who suffered a shock loss in his first match at the Auckland Classic on Wednesday, was pitted first up against Czech player Tomas Machac. Daniil Medvedev, finalist at the last two Australian Opens, takes on American Marcos Giron. Third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas has a tough match against France's Quentin Halys.

Former Slam winner Andy Murray meets Italian Matteo Berrettini in a irst-round clash while Rublev is up against former finalist Dominic Thiem.

On the women's side, second seed Ons Jabeur of Tunisia faces Slovenia's Tamara Zidansek while American third seed Jessica Pegula takes on Romania's Jaqueline Cristian.

In a bumper first-round clash, former champions Victoria Azarenka and Sofia Kenin will meet.

Hyderabad ekes out a draw against Chennaiyin

ISL-9

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Defending champion Hyderabad FC fought back from a solitary goal deficit to hold Chennaiyin FC to a one-all draw in the Hero Indian Super League football here on Thursday.

It was a story of missed chances for both teams in the first-half. On resumption after the break, a beautiful header from Petar Sliskovic off a curling corner from Akash Sangwan in the 57th minute saw Chennaiyin take the lead.

There was little to choose till then between the two sides with Chennaiyin having a go at the HFC citadel quite a few times. But, the home team's defence was equal to the task as has been the case in this edition.

The closest HFC came to scoring in the first half was when Javier Toro's header from inside the box was collected on the half-volley by the custodian Samik Mitra in the 18th minute just shortly before Borja Gonzalez's header sailed over the bar.

For Chennaiyin, Vincy Baretto sprinted down the centre into the box and had only the custodian Gurmeet to beat but failed to capitalise on the chance in the 21st minute.

The Javier Toro-Bartholomew Ogbeche combine had a close look at the goal after the break but Chennaiyin's defence was smart enough to thwart that move.

A serious foul by Vafa Hakhamneshi on Toro inside the box saw HFC earn a penalty to the delight of the sparse crowd in the 87th minute.

Ogbeche converted it and the match eventually ended in a draw.

The result: HFC 1 (Ogbeche 87-pen) drew with Chennaiyin FC 1 (Petar Sliskovic 57).

The equaliser: Ogbeche draws Hyderabad level from the spot against Chennaiyin. ISL/FOCUS SPORTS

Diya qualifies for TT World championship

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Diya Chitale defeated Ng Wing Lam (Hong Kong) 11-6, 11-5, 11-7, 11-9 in the Asia Continental stage, in Doha, to take the fourth and final qualifying spot for India for the 2023 World table tennis championship in Durban in May.

Diya's victory coincided with the defeat of Reeth Rishya to Korea's Choi Hyogoo 0-4 in the other qualifying match. Diya joined Sreeja Akula, Manika Batra and Swastika Ghosh as the four Indian qualifiers for the premier event.

However, Harmeet Desai fell short of making the grade in the men's singles. Facing a must-win situation, Singapore's Izaac Quek defeated Harmeet 5-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-8, 1-11, 11-9.

Former Brazil international Joao Miranda retires

Agence France Presse
SAO PAULO

Former Brazil international Joao Miranda on Wednesday announced his retirement from football at the age of 38. The centre-back represented Brazil 58 times between 2009 and 2019, scoring three goals. He played the 2018 World Cup

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